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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Postpones Emergency Meeting

Prior Committments Cited

NC2606192890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Tunis, 26 Jun (MENA)—Arab League sources have confirmed that the Arab League's emergency meeting, scheduled to be held in Tunis on 27 June at the Arab foreign ministers' level, has been postponed until a date to be announced.

These sources said the postponement was requested by a number of Arab countries because some Arab foreign ministers had prior commitments on that date.

[Paris AFP in English at 1854 GMT on 26 June in its report on the postponement of the meeting adds: "Observers said the meeting will probably not take place before next week because of a Moslem holiday."]

Council Announcement

LD2606223190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] The postponement of the extraordinary session of the Arab League Ministerial Council was announced at the league's headquarters. It was scheduled to be held in Tunis tomorrow, Wednesday. The new date will be announced later, as was stated by an informed source at the league. The reason for the postponement are the commitments of some of the Arab foreign ministers. This session, which was requested by the state of Palestine, will discuss in particular Arab developments, especially following Washington's decision to suspend the U.S.- Palestinian dialogue.

Nonaligned Mediterranean Ministers End Meeting

LD2606201990 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Mediterranean nonaligned countries this evening concluded their conference by issuing a final communique.

The communique reiterated the stances and statements issued by the Valletta and Brioni meetings which stress making the Mediterranean region into a region of peace and cooperation.

The communique also stressed the necessity of settling the conflicts in a peaceful manner according to the UN Charter, and of increasing efforts aimed at ending tension in the region .

The foreign ministers of the participating countries consider this conference as the beginning of a new joint action in light of the positive changes at both the regional and international levels, which led to a new push forward to the process of disarmament and to consecrating the right of the peoples to self-determination and independence.

The foreign ministers also gave special attention to the current discussions of the European peace and cooperation conference on the establishment of a new system of collective security in Europe.

The communique also notes the readiness of the participating countries to open regional negotiations on the issues of mutual cooperation and also with the international community. [video shows Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali sitting at a desk talking to a television correspondent]

[Begin Ghozali recording] This is a new beginning aimed at drawing up a practicial plan for the progress of our bilateral relations, and on what we can do in order to consolidate our exchanges—not only in the political field, but also in all economic and cultural fields—and secondly for the progress of our relations as a group with Europe as a whole. The conference plan is aimed at giving a tangible substance to the dialogue with our neighbors in Europe at all levels. This dialogue includes economic relations and also relations which concern the security of the region. [end recording]

This conference enabled the participants to build a structure for coordinating the efforts of the member-countries to consolidate peace and remove all the obstacles created by the crises in the region, such as Palestine, Lebanon, and Cyprus.

The participants stressed the importance of ending the proliferation of total destruction weapons and ending foreign military presence in the Mediterranean.

In the economic field, the participating ministers expressed their conviction that the economic gap between the countries of the region should be reduced, and that a suitable international economic situation should be established in order to secure the development in the Mediterranean region.

Palestinian Affairs

Official Calls for Arab League Meeting 27 Jun

LD2606164590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Mr. Hakim Bil'awi, representative of the state of Palestine to the Arab League, has stated that Palestine has called for the convening of an extraordinary session of the Arab League Council in Tunis tomorrow [27 June] to examine the deterioration of the grave situation experienced by the Arab nation, resulting from the escalation of the threats of the new Israeli Government against the intifadah and a number of Arab countries, threats that have reached the stage of effective preparations for aggression.

He added that the decision of the U.S. Administration to suspend the dialogue with the PLO had, with its repercussions, redoubled the danger of the situation, given the encouragement that the decision signifies and represents to the Israeli policy of terror and aggression.

Mr. Bil'awi urged the Arab League Council to adopt a firm and effective stand to confront these Israeli challenges, and also the U.S. Administration, with its encouragement of the policy of the Israeli Government, which he described as a war cabinet.

Khalaf on League Meeting, Sea Raid, Struggle

JN2606183790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] As requested by the PLO, the Arab League Council will meet in Tunis tomorrow to discuss the U.S. decision to suspend dialogue with the PLO. It is still not known which Arab foreign ministers will attend. Arab League sources in Tunis said, as if expecting the absence of many foreign ministers, that most of them have not thus far informed the Arab League Secretariat of their plans. However, the permanent representative will deputize for the absent minister.

As Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] put it, the PLO called for this emergency ministerial meeting for two reasons: the suspension of the U.S.-PLO dialogue and the Shamir government policy aimed at liquidating the intifadah. On the suspension of the dialogue, the PLO will ask Arab League members one question; namely, what they intend to do in the wake of the U.S. decision. According to Abu-Iyad, the PLO will inform the Arab Ministerial Council that following the intervention of friendly countries it has agreed to release a statement condemning every military action against civilians; it will also conduct an internal investigation to determine responsibilities for the attempt to land on Tel Aviv shores. Abu-Iyad added: We have some ideas, but we will not impose anything on the ministerial meeting, as it is up to the participants to decide the measures which should be taken.

Regarding the intifadah and the Shamir government policy, Abu-Iyad said: We should not remain idle toward the policy pursued by Shamir's government. The matter requires a firm Arab position. He stated that there is an increase in the number of Palestinian voices calling for a return to armed struggle. However, Abu-Iyad said, we will confront these adventurous currents. He termed the calls to turn the intifadah into an armed one as irresponsible.

Abu-Sharif Says PLO Will Not Abandon Struggle

LD2706122590 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1137 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Tunis, 27 Jun (KUNA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, the information adviser to the Palestinian president, has said that the Palestinian people has only one option, which is to struggle for its freedom and national independence.

In a statement distributed here today, he said: We have given all that is required of us, and whoever thinks that we will abandon our right to self-determination and to set up an independent state is wrong.

Abu-Sharif pointed out that the PLO has begun to implement its program which aims at raising and escalating the level of resistance to the occupation forces inside the occupied territories. However, he did not explain what this program was.

The Palestinian official called upon the U.S. President and Congress to implement Clause 502 of the foreign aid law and urged them to respect the clause and not to provide any assistance to any state which violates human rights. In this respect, he pointed to the similarity between the two racist regimes in Tel Aviv and Pretoria, against which this law has been implemented.

In his statement, he focused on the conditions set by the government of the terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir, which he said give a clear picture of the Zionist entity's desire to expand, to reject the principle of exchanging territory for peace, and to disregard the international desire to bring peace to the region. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Reiterates Stand on Dialogue, Israel

LD2606211290 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The brother president and leader, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], stressed that the United States is responsible for the escalation of tension in the Arab region.

In a message read on his behalf by Palestinian representative to the United Nations Zuhdi al-Tarazi to an international symposium which opened yesterday at the United Nations, he said the U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO has led to an increase in tension in the Middle East and encouraged the extremists in Israel.

He added: The Palestinian people will continue the struggle for freedom and for an independent state. He pointed out that the program of the new Israeli administration is a program of war and threats to peace and security in the region, not to mention that it is a program which contradicts international legitimacy, the resolutions of the international community, and the rights of the Palestinian people.

It is noteworthy that the international symposium on the Palestinian issue opened yesterday in the United Nations under the slogan: Peace and justice for the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Officials, Papers React to Dialogue Suspension

Arab Front Calls for New Strategy

JN2306204590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jun (INA)—The Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has stressed that escalating the Palestinian

struggle, developing the valiant popular intifadah, and providing it with new militant formulas constitute the practical answer to the hostile U.S. decision to suspend dialogue with the PLO.

Commenting on the U.S. decision, a responsible source at the ALF called for a comprehensive Palestinian review of all political moves taken during the previous stage with the aim of bolstering the Palestinian position and adhering to the Palestinian peace initiative as the only framework for the search for peace.

He said that with this decision, the United States of America wants to confirm its blind bias in favor of the Zionist entity and submission to Zionist pressures and extortion.

He added that the decision crowns a series of hostile U.S. positions toward our Palestinian people and their legitimate struggle to realize their rights to self-determination and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state on national soil.

He explained that Washington wanted this dialogue to serve as a trap which it could employ to push for abandoning the Palestinian people's principles and rights, bypassing the peace initiative, ending the valiant Palestinian intifadah, and adopting positions that contradict the Palestinian people's aspirations.

He said: During this dialogue, the U.S. Administration continued to refuse to recognize our right to self-determination and the exclusivity and legitimacy of the PLO's representation of our people. Also during the dialogue, it used the veto seven times to protect Zionist crimes and the enemy's terrorist practices against our people. The U.S. Congress also made two decisions considering Jerusalem the eternal capital of the Zionist enemy, and the United States has put its full weight against the state of Palestine's membership in specialized international organizations and bodies. It is still preventing the UN Security Council from taking a decision to denounce emigration and settlement in our occupied Palestinian territory.

He stressed that this step exposes all false claims made by United States about its endeavors to achieve peace and spare the region more violence and tension.

Hurani Interviewed

NC2606130990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Amman, 26 Jun (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has stated that the purpose of his current visit to Jordan, in which he is accompanied by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, is to brief Jordanian officials on the outcome of the PLO Executive Committee meetings in Baghdad.

In an interview with a MENA correspondent in Amman, Hurani said another purpose of the visit is to seek coordination following the U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO. He said this decision has curtailed the U.S. role in the peace process. He added that the decision will not diminish the PLO's role because peace cannot be achieved without the PLO, a key party. He pointed out that this decision will encourage Israel to continue its policy of rejecting any dealings with the PLO.

Hurani asserted that the Palestinian Liberation Front carried out its seaborne operation without informing the PLO and that Yasir 'Arafat had no prior knowledge of it.

Regarding Syrian-Palestinian relations, Hurani pointed out that a PLO delegation will visit Syria soon for talks with Syrian officials on restoring normal relations between the two parties. He added that there is nothing to prevent the resumption of bilateral relations.

Hurani said the relations between the PLO and Iran had never been severed at any time, noting that there are close ties between the two parties. He added that the PLO is exerting great efforts to rectify Arab-Iranian relations, in the interest of the two peoples.

The Palestinian official noted that the PLO had not been pleased with the transformation in the Soviet stand, particularly with respect to Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union. However, the PLO recognizes the Soviet role in support of a just solution in the Middle East. He added that the PLO will continue to work with the Soviet Government to alleviate the negative effects which Jewish immigration has caused, by seeking guarantees that the immigrants will not settle in the occupied territories, discouraging immigration from the Soviet Union straight to Israel, trying to direct this immigration to other destinations, and ensuring that facilities given to the immigrants be linked to progress made in the peace process. He noted that this immigration poses a threat to the occupied Arab territories as well as to neighboring Arab countries.

Welcomes Dialogue Intervention

LD2606213190 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Brother 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, announced that the PLO welcomes any British or other intervention to convince the United States to resume its dialogue with the PLO, which was suspended last Wednesday.

In a press statement, brother Hurani pointed out that the Palestinian Central Council will be called to a meeting after the blessed Id al-Adha to study the dimensions of Washington's decision to suspend its dialogue with the PLO.

He stressed that the PLO will not withdraw its peace initiative, because it is a strategic initiative which stemmed from the uprising in the occupied territories and was adopted by the Palestine National Council in November.

PNC Secretary Comments

PM2606110490 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 25 Jun 90 p 11

[By Mansur 'Atiyyah]

[Excerpt] Cairo, agencies—Palestine National Council [PNC] Secretary Muhammad Subayh emphasized to 'UKAZ that the U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO was a result of growing Zionist pressure.

He said that the continuing Zionist pressure knows no limit: It acknowledges nothing but Israel's aggressive ambitions. The objective is to create an atmosphere of tension and unrest in this vital region of the world.

Muhammad Subayh pointed out that the decision to suspend the dialogue harms the peace process and that the only beneficiary is the extremist Israeli Government, which wants to control Arab waters and territory, to evacuate Palestinian citizens from their homes, and to commit aggression in all directions. The Palestinian people, he said, will confront all Zionist schemes with all their conviction and determination. [passage omitted]

PLO Envoy Urges Unified Stand

JN2606151390 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 25 Jun 90 p 2

[Text] 'Awni Battash, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Kuwait, has called on the Arab foreign ministers, who will meet in Tunis on 27 June in response to the PLO's official request, to take a firm stand against the United States to match the magnitude of the aggression Washington has practiced and is practicing against the PLO and the Palestinian people. In an exclusive statement to AL-WATAN, Battash said that Washington's suspension of the dialogue with the PLO supports the program of Shamir's terrorist government and increases the political pressure and blackmail it is practicing against the PLO to force it to make concessions and to retreat. He asserted that this American objective will never be achieved.

Battash noted that the U.S. decision requires the implementation of the extraordinary Baghdad summit resolutions which held Washington fully responsible for protecting Israel and covering its crimes. He said that the U.S. decision should cost the United States heavily so that it will not continue its arrogant and hostile policy against the PLO and the Arabs, particularly as it used the veto at the Security Council only a few hours after the conclusion of the emergency Baghdad summit, ignoring the Arab position.

Battash stressed that the United States, together with Israel, will fail in finding a political substitute to the PLO. The Shamir government at this time places all its political skills to accomplish this objective in order to quash the intifadah and bypass the PLO during any coming stage of negotiations.

Battash expressed his conviction that the steadfastness of the intifadah and the development of the Arab stand in the face of Washington could hasten the fall of Shamir's government, which is implicitly backed by the U.S. Administration and the Congress.

Ministers Compelled To Act

JN2606072290 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1848 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Political Editor's commentary: "Arab Decisions Should Be Consistent With the Requirements of this Phase"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration did not surprise anybody when its President, George Bush, announced his decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO. Nor was the decision a mere tactical step with definite aims that could be confined to the process of pulling the carpet from under the feet of the PLO and dragging it to a new phase of going in circles around peace. The United States did not and will not spare any effort to undermine any moves that are not commensurate with the substance of its strategic alliance with the Zionist enemy. In short, the U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue was highly commensurate with the overall U.S. position, of which the complete bias in favor of the Zionist enemy has always been the common denominator and the advanced and basic line of action in the front of aggression against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

Naturally, it is very clear that the flagrant, provocative U.S. decision, which is hostile to the peace process in the region, was intended to break new ground for the Zionist enemy's terroristic practices against the brave intifadah masses. This is because any return to the previous formula of this dialogue will require time, which the U.S. Administration will exploit to advance the Zionist enemy settlements, expansionism, and plans of aggression, with particular emphasis on quelling the brave intifadah, expanding the operations of organized and state killing of our Palestinian people in occupied Palestine, and preparing for large-scale aggression along the length and breadth of the Arab homeland.

Based on all this, the current task of the Arab foreign minister's council, which will be held in Tunis, is to effect practical measures to confront threats against pan-Arab security because the latest U.S. stand was not only aimed against the PLO, but was meant to put the Baghdad summit resolutions to the test—especially since these resolutions were a new indication of the spirit that the Arab masses want prevalent in Arab solidarity to counter the aggression that is aimed against this nation, its values, and its pan-Arab security in all fields.

The fact is that the U.S. decision was not a haphazard one, it was unequivocal, and did not leave any doubts about its aims, being clearly expressive of the prevailing mentality in the U.S. Administration, which is indulging its aggressiveness because it believes that this is the way to preserve the U.S. interests and connections in the Arab region. Moreover, the U.S. Administration cannot

tolerate the notion that this region might deviate from the line drawn for it by the ruling circles in Washington. Taking this into account, we expect more hostile U.S. stands, which hold in contempt this nation's aspirations for progress, freedom, and independence.

In view of the fact that the threats facing the Arab nation transcend the clamor surrounding them to daily reports of enemy military preparations on more than one front, and because the U.S. intransigence has exceeded all limits of logic that should prevail in relations among nations and peoples, the Arab foreign ministers meeting will not be discussing routine issues. The problem requires the highest level of responsibility and a profound understanding of the requirements of the current and future phases.

While the U.S. decisions are commensurate with the current phase and the role that the U.S. Administration plays in cooperation and coordination with the Zionist enemy—which has not failed to emphasize its expansionist ambitions on all occasions—logic demands that the ministers take practical measures to prove Arab credibility and force the dreamers to return to their senses. These great challenges require responsible response, commensurate with the aspirations and resolutions of the Arab leaders and peoples.

Editorial Calls for Arab Response

PM2606105290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jun 90 p 13

[Editorial: "Unifying Position On Suspension Of Dialogue"]

[Text] The Palestinian peace initiative was not only a Palestinian decision, but an Arab decision as well. After its approval by the Palestine National Council on 15 November 1988, the Arab leaders discussed it at the Casablanca summit in May 1989, then endorsed it and backed the PLO's efforts to implement it.

The Palestinian peace initiative was followed by a U.S. initiative to mend what was broken with the PLO: A dialogue was initiated with it at the ambassadorial level in Tunis. But the United States—for reasons that have convinced neither the Arabs nor the world as a whole—has recently decided to suspend the dialogue with the PLO, thus in practice encouraging Israel to continue its repressive measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territory and to threaten the entire peace process, which could push the region toward war.

Although initial responses point to agreement among the Arab states to express regret at the negative U.S. behavior, it is logical for the Arabs to act with regard to the suspension of the dialogue as they did with regard to the Palestinian peace initiative. That is, by unifying the Arab position on this new issue in terms of the method and concept.

The suspension of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue concerns not only the PLO, but the entire peace initiative in the region, which has become an Arab position. Besides, the outcome of Washington's decision to suspend the dialogue will not affect the Palestinian people alone: It will reflect negatively on all Arab states. Following the suspension of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue did Shamir not try to indicate that the problem cannot be resolved by confining the dialogue to Israel and the Palestinians and that the matter requires negotiations between Israel and the Arab states?!

President Husni Mubarak's decision to send Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to Washington to discuss with President George Bush the outcome of his negative step seems logical and necessary in such circumstances. The same applies to Egypt's initiative to brief European ambassadors in Cairo on the seriousness of the U.S. step before the European summit in Dublin (Ireland) today. This is because the two initiatives will enable the West European states to determine how much damage the peace initiative could sustain as a result of the hasty U.S. stance, which serves Israeli extremists.

But all this cannot be a substitute for unifying the Arab position in this regard. The unification of the Arab position is bound to ensure the international influence and respect necessary in these crucial circumstances which the Palestinian cause and the peace initiative are experiencing.

Perhaps the united Arabs will be helped to win this latest round in the diplomatic struggle by the U.S. awareness of the dangerous nature of the course that it has taken. This shown by the fact that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has asked his British opposite number, Douglas Hurd, that London maintain the channels of contacts with the PLO on Washington's behalf in order to prevent the death of the peace initiative and the U.S. role in it. The Arabs will also be helped in this regard by the position of both Italy and France, which is critical of the U.S. attitude, and especially by the Paris position urging the EEC summit on the one hand to form a European diplomatic committee to hold a dialogue with the PLO to fill the U.S. vacuum and on the other to focus further international diplomatic efforts to convene the international peace conference on peace in the Middle East.

Reasons for Suspension Considered

PM2606113090 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 22 Jun 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Is Suspension of Dialogue with PLO Start of Freeze in U.S. Role in Peace Process?"]

[Text] While the specter of war continues to loom over the region as a result of the policies pursued by the new extremist Israeli Government Washington has decided to suspend the dialogue with the PLO, thus raising again a question raised last week—whether the United States is moving toward an abandonment of its commitments to the region.

While some observers see the U.S. step to suspend the dialogue with the PLO as merely a response intended to

circumvent any Israeli attempts to eliminate the peace process, other observers see the U.S. decision as merely the start of the process of detaching the link between Washington and the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is because the United States believes that the regional parties must take their own initiatives to end this conflict. Following the two superpowers' recent summit Washington realized that the region now lies outside the area of international polarization.

Some observers believe that Washington's abandonment—even temporarily—of a role in peace efforts in the region could help to bring about the objective conditions through regional interactions which could later help restart a peace process which does stand a chance of success, and that it is the Americans' turn to play the expected role at the right time.

Other observers say that the step to detach the link between Washington and the region's issues could mean increasing the chances of a war breaking out, though they do not rule out Washington's desire to play a role as a catalyst that would, whenever possible, try to prevent the crisis from exploding.

Experts in Middle Eastern affairs expect the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue to resume if the United States finds a better opportunity to advance the peace process. They believe that talk about a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue under Baker's plan should be preceded in practice by the resumption of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, otherwise Washington would not be able to persuade the Israelis to engage in a dialogue which it had broken off.

It seems that the balanced responses by the Palestinian tendencies which, despite the U.S decision, have emphasized their adherence to their peace initiative, their clear distinction between terrorism and armed struggle, and their readiness to fight terrorism with all their strength—all this means that the resumption of the dialogue is still possible. Some observers believe that this is a strong possibility, because Israel's tireless efforts to launch an aggressive war could leave Washington with a single, namely, to intervene again by presenting a peace plan which Washington knows cannot be right without the PLO.

Paper Condemns U.S. Senate Decision on Jerusalem

PM2606092890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 90 p 8

[Excerpts] The U.S. Senate decision to regard Jerusalem as the capital of Israel has passed quietly, without any Arab or Islamic reaction appropriate to the danger and seriousness of the decision.

The Arab and Islamic nations, as usual, have been content to issue statements of condemnation. [passage omitted]

The U.S. decision is a blatant challenge to the feelings of the two nations and a blatant blow to all those who console themselves by saying that the United States has become a friend of the Arabs, merely because it has engaged in a dialogue with the PLO and issued some timid statements blaming Israel and its repressive measures against the Palestinian people's intifadah in the occupied territory.

I believe that the Senate's decision is tantamount to a declaration of war on the Arab nation and all Muslims. The objective is nothing less than to provide Israel with further guarantees, to spare Israel any worries about Jerusalem with regard to any negotiations on its final status. The aim of the decision is also to dismiss the importance of the resolutions adopted by Arab and Islamic summits and the Palestine National Council resolutions to regard Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

What is required at the Arab level is for all the Arab quarters concerned with the matter to scientifically study the results of the decision in order to draw up a new policy toward the White House, in view of U.S. Middle East policy, which has shown clear hostility to the Arab nation and blatant bias toward Israel.

It is now essential to conduct this study in order to adopt a resolute Arab decision to explain the Arab position to the U.S. White House and point out that there is no Arab-U.S. friendship if the U.S. position supporting Israel continues at the Arab nation's expense.

It is essential that Arab resolutions contain no courtesies to the United States, because everyone knows that the United States has become accustomed to such courtesies, and they do not change or affect its influence at all.

Commentary Urges Preparedness To Face Israel

JN2606133190 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Political editor's commentary]

[Text] We are not trying to create a furor or to exaggerate when we say—and we have said this before—that U.S. President George Bush's decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO is aimed, among other things, at creating and escalating tension in the Arab region. Escalating tension in the Arab region comes from providing Israel with the requirements of war and aggression and preparing the atmosphere for Israel to launch its war of aggression against the Arab nation.

Apart from analyses, speculation, and probabilities, various reports from the occupied territory indicate that the Israeli enemy has actually begun practical preparations, such as recalling reservists and other mobilization measures to launch a large-scale aggression against the Arab nation. The enemy has also approved the violent and bloody plot presented by War Minister Moshe Arens to intensify the repression and killing of the brave intifadah masses in order to crush the intifadah and extinguish its flames for good. Yesterday, Arens inspected his troops in occupied southern Lebanon. This in itself is very significant.

Even if we assume, therefore, that a large-scale war of aggression by Israel against the Arab nation is only a probability that may or may not take place, logic and reality, in addition to duty and responsibility, require that on the other side—that is, on the Arab side—there should be similar moves, not toward war but toward providing the requirements of deterrence and protection. This should be publicized by various means and on various levels. In this context, the recent Baghdad summit resolutions provide a suitable basis for such moves as are necessary to deter the expected Israeli aggression, protect the Arab region from its evils and dangers, and, what is more, to impose a just peace and implement the Arab peace plan based on clear rights and justice.

Here, we must emphasize Iraq's strong and brave stand, which should be adopted as a new and united Arab position to confront the aggression and its repercussions. Yes, the Baghdad summit not only provides such a basis but has also strengthened the new Arab spirit—a spirit of challenge, vigor, and hope.

Owing to the escalation of U.S. hostility and Israeli war statements, the Middle East struggle is today vulnerable to the very great possibility of a conflagration. This struggle requires comprehensive and effective Arab preparedness. Although the Baghdad summit has provided the means for this preparedness, we say that the situation brooks no delay. We must avoid having to regret our policy when regrets would be to no avail.

PLO Urges Netherlands To Pressure EEC on Israel

LD2706102690 Kuwait KUNA in English 0929 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Tunis June 27 (KUNA)—The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has urged the Netherlands to adopt more balanced stances toward concerned parties in the Middle East conflict.

The PLO also called on Holland to put pressure and take serious measures within the EEC on the Israeli Government make it respond to the international will for accepting the convocation of an international peace conference.

The request was voiced by the general director of the PLO Political Department, 'Abd-al-Latif Abu-Hijlah, during his meeting here last night with Dutch charge d'affaires to Tunisia.

The two sides also discussed the dangerous situation in the Middle East.

Discussion also tackled the EEC role in the peace process, in addition to bilateral relations and ways of developing them between PLO and the Dutch Government.

Envoy on Mubarak's Efforts, Peace Initiative

NC2606163790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, acting Palestinian ambassador and Fatah representative in Cairo, has praised President Husni Mubarak's efforts to bring about the realization of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, as well as his efforts and contacts in the international arena to bolster the Palestinian stand and promote the Palestinian peace initiative.

In a statement today, the Palestinian official said: The Palestinian peace initiative is a strategic one and it is still valid. The PLO will not abolish it, as Israel and the United States are pushing us to do, because this initiative has become an Arab and international one in the wake of its Arab and international approval.

He added that the Palestinian peace initiative has exposed Israel's intransigent stand, which is opposed to peace, and uncovered to the world public the extent of the Palestinian commitment to international legitimacy, whereas Israel rejects this legitimacy. He called on the Arab states to exert pressure on the United States to halt its total partiality toward Israel.

Algeria

Islamic Front Leader Outlines Future Plans

JN2306150690 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 22 Jun 90 p 22

[Interview with Shaykh Abassi Madani, head of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, by Nicola Nasir in Algiers on 15 June]

[Text] [Nasir] Where is Algeria headed after the overwhelming victory of the FIS?

[Madani] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. First, I greet your readers. You are also welcome. As for your question, Algeria is now heading for a resolution of the crisis, beginning with the political crisis. The Algerian people have been able to exercise their freedom. They have made their choice with complete freedom, and no rigging took place. Despite minor incidents, we think we are on the beginning of the road to a solution.

[Nasir] What is your next step?

[Madani] Stability will be achieved when the National Council is reelected.

[Nasir] If you receive an offer to form the government, will you accept?

[Madani] The issue has not been up for discussion. If I do not accept, someone else will. What is important is that after the reelection of a national council, political stability will become a concrete reality. It is not important who will form the government.

[Nasir] But what if an offer is made to the FIS?

[Madani] It is possible. In fact, it is premature to talk about this.

[Nasir] Some Algerian parties have boycotted the elections, and others have not. Some have also demanded the dissolution of the People's National Assembly. Have you coordinated on this issue?

[Madani] Other parties do not share the same burden we have. We are bearing the burden of Algeria; they bear others' burdens.

[Nasir] Does this mean they have foreign affiliations?

[Madani] I did not say this. You are free to interpret my words the way you like. However, I am a politician. What I am saying is that they are carrying the burden of their institutions, and we are carrying the burden of an entire people. The difference between the two burdens is that they think of parties as an end in themselves, while our party is a means. They are seeking leadership for its own sake; we are seeking leadership for performance. The criteria are not the same. They are using the language of political adolescence; we are using the language of political maturity. Moreover, they are using the language of conventional conflict among parties; but we are using the dialogue of understanding and integration in order to cooperate on the scene of action. They form parties to isolate themselves. We, in contrast, are open to everyone. They measure things in terms of their followers; we take the interests of all people in consideration.

We have founded the FIS as a means, not an end. If the FIS, however, abandons the approach we have assigned it, we will be the first to oppose it. We were among the founders of the [National] Liberation Front, but we abandoned it when it went astray.

[Nasir] Will you reconsider the Constitution if you secure the majority of the People's National Assembly?

[Madani] First, we do not claim at all that we will obtain a majority. We are only thinking of reelecting the Assembly, regardless of who will win. The important thing is that the Algerian people will be the winners when they make the choice. What is important is that the Algerian people's right to choose their representatives is restored. Therefore, it is not important who restores this right to them. Some parties think they are not ready for this. They want to delay the country's interests in favor of their own—for example, the Rally for Culture and Democracy. We give precedence to the people's interests over the party's. We cannot put off the interests of the people in our favor. Never. Here is a man drowning—we will not say to the people: Do not rescue him. We will rescue him, or he will be left to die. Never. Whoever reaches this man first and saves him—this is fine, and we will thank the rescuer for that. We do not want to link the fate of the Algerian people with an individual or a group. The Algerian people are not in need of tutelage. Their train cannot wait. The reelection of the National Assembly is an urgent requirement for their existence.

[Nasir] Do you think the Algerian Constitution currently in force is an Islamic one?

[Madani] The Constitution currently in force is absolutely not an Islamic one. We have not supported it. We opposed it, and we were elected while being against it.

[Nasir] If you have the chance to amend this constitution, will you maintain pluralism, and will you maintain Clause 40?

[Madani] It is necessary to have pluralism. Why? Because one must have what is needed to fulfill one's duty, and we believe that it is necessary to have opposition. It existed during the time of the orthodox caliphs, so why not have it now? No matter how hard we try, we cannot reach that supreme model. However, if opposition was needed at that time, then it is also needed now. How can there be opposition if there is no pluralism? We believe that pluralism is necessary for political development, because we are not angels. We are right sometimes, and make mistakes at other times. We are human and make mistakes, and we are not prepared to impose ourselves on our people even when we are wrong. Never.

We exist wherever legitimacy exists, and where there is no legitimacy, we do not exist. Therefore, pluralism must be allowed, because there is opposition. Moreover, we are ready to abandon pluralism and listen opposition even if it is a minority, when it is right and can benefit us. We are prepared to benefit from any lesson, even the lessons of our enemies, so why should we ignore the lessons of our sons who share the same destiny with us? Pluralism is a guarantee of cultural wealth, and diversity is needed for any development.

We are Muslims, but we are not Islam itself. If we were Islam, people would have abandoned Islam. We are Muslims, and if we were right in something, then Islam is right, and if we make any mistake, it is we who made the mistake, and we do not blame Islam for our mistakes.

We are an Islamic party, and the others are Muslims. Our affiliation to Islam means we are committed to its law and values. People, all people, have the right to judge us on the bases of these values.

We are not tyrants, and we do not monopolize religion. Democracy as we understand it means pluralism, choice, and freedom.

[Nasir] In return for the valuable confidence you won in the municipal elections, what will you offer the Algerian people? What is your program as far as the people are concerned?

[Madani] The program must always stand to the level of the responsibility. As for the municipalities, they will, God willing, witness a boom in construction to face the housing problem.

We are suffering from a centuries-old problem of backwardness in construction, and there must be a leap forward. We have a short-term program for the most afflicted, and a longer-term program for all, so that we will no longer have a housing problem in the country. The capital will be expanded, and all hills surrounding it will be leveled to build houses on, and all other major cities will witness the same development.

[Nasir] What do you mean by the "Islamic municipality," and will you apply Islamic law in the municipalities where you won?

[Madani] The FIS has fought the elections with a comprehensive program according to which the solution will assume the size of the problem with all its political, economic, social, and cultural dimensions. We consider the municipality the cornerstone in the structure of the Islamic state in Algeria, God willing, which will bring back the pre-occupation era.

First of all, the law in this municipality will be based on justice. All the differences, injustices, bribery, and negligence that existed before must be removed, because Islam is the religion of justice and equality among all peoples. Filth in our municipalities has reached the point where we no longer care—we, the people of cleanliness. The Islamic municipality also works with the people, and is never isolated from them. It will fight bureaucracy and meet all the requests and needs of civilized life. It is the foundation stone of the pyramid of the Islamic state.

We will move from the municipality to the governorates, which have a larger role to play as far as legislation is concerned, and also as far as providing facilities is concerned. This raises the issue of electing a new People's National Assembly. True, work must be done by all, not only part of the people, and must be the work of complementarity and cooperation. If the people complement the FIS, and if the municipality complements the governorate, then the governorate must complement the People's National Assembly and the government.

I believe that with this victory, we have taken the first step in coming out of the crisis, God willing.

[Nasir] What about industrialization and the existing industries?

[Madani] These wonderful resources were paralyzed. This was known as a mismanagement crisis. But the Algerian people will take a giant step forward as usual, and the industrial, agricultural, and commercial genius will find its way, God willing. We have been suffering from stagnation, we have been placed on the sidelines, and there have been attempts to restrict and destroy skills. But these restrictions will be removed, God willing.

[Nasir] Have you held any contact with President Chadli Bendjedid?

[Madani] There has not yet been any such contact.

[Nasir] The constitutional authority to dissolve the People's National Assembly is in the hands of President Bendjedid. Do you expect any immediate response to your call for dissolving the Assembly?

[Madani] I believe this has become necessary.

[Nasir] Did you expect success in the elections?

[Madani] I congratulate the Algerian people on this victory, because they are the principal winners. They demonstrated a political maturity that has surprised the world. The Algerian people produced many such surprises in the past. I also congratulate the Arab countries from one end to the other on this victory, which is theirs.

This result did not surprise us, because we expected it. Only those who do not know the Algerian people and their history were surprised by this result. We are confident that they will be also surprised when the Algerian people launch a comprehensive change at all levels.

[Nasir] What about allowing men and women to work together?

[Madani] There should be no mixing at offices. This is also the case in mosques. This change will also take place in the municipal system in which the FIS achieved victory.

[Nasir] What about nightclubs?

[Madani] They will be organized.

[Nasir] Is there any plan to abolish them?

[Madani] We have not discussed this issue. We are discussing the main problems, such as housing, unemployment, and many other new problems.

However, people are not led to paradise in chains. Those who want to dance have no problem. They have the sea, the ships, and the planes. They can dance wherever they like. They have Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and France. The things that annoy Algeria are the ones we should think about.

[Nasir] What about public liberties?

[Madani] They are guaranteed. We will secure the people's rights and liberties, including freedom of ownership, freedom of living, freedom of work, and freedom of expression. We will make Algeria a Hyde Park not only for free expression, but also for choice and behavior. It will be a free place, God willing.

[Nasir] Was there rigging in the elections?

[Madani] There were very rare and isolated incidents, but the administration's objectivity has relieved the country of a serious crisis. If there had been rigging in the elections, we would have been a major loser. Ballots that were not issued to people were not counted. This indicated an absence, but some people called it a boycott. We have no doubt about our people's will, because it imposed itself. No election in history enjoyed such a large number of voters.

[Nasir] How you view youths' large-scale participation?

[Madani] It is our duty to embrace the entire Algerian people, including youths who suffered from idleness. One of the most negative aspects of the political system in Algeria after the revolution was idleness. Modern ideologies have become bankrupt in their places. Modern thought has not been able to provide man with faith, conscientious immunity, and sound ideology, which culturally enables man to make changes in his environment.

[Nasir] Are people are talking about radicals and moderates in your front?

[Madani] There are no divisions inside the FIS. God created men with different moods. There is a complete harmony in our ranks. We have a full-fledged consultative council, and we have a responsible executive body and other bodies that elect their representatives to a national conference.

[Nasir] What about your foreign policy?

[Madani] We view our presence modestly. We cannot reach the end without starting from square one. Before entering the world stage we must put our house in order. We should not be vain. We should judge ourselves before judging others—unless, of course, they are intruding—so that others will not pass judgment on us.

[Nasir] Is there any cooperation between your front and the other Islamic movements?

[Madani] Materially, we have obtained nothing. Politically, we have seen nothing more than sympathy, because the other movements are weak. We were happy with the Islamic movement's victory in Jordan and they are happy with our victory, but is there any cooperation between us? There is none. There is sympathy but no cooperation, but we hope there will be cooperation in the future.

We have no means of assisting others, and none of these movements has assisted us. We did not ask for assistance, because we wanted to retain our independence.

All of our resources are local contributions. We all pay. I do not receive any wages for working in the front.

[Nasir] I heard you a short time ago talking to a French reporter on Israel and the Jews. What is your opinion?

[Madani] In our opinion, the Jews are pitiful, because they die for other people's sake. They die for the sake of the Americans. They die to increase others' bank accounts and strengthen their thrones. They were given a land which has been a land mine for centuries. I do not believe the Jewish leaders are wise at all because they have hurled the Jewish people into an ever-burning inferno.

I believe that a giant Satan has plotted this for mankind. What is the value of the sacred land compared with the sanctity of man? I do not believe that a land can be more sacred than its owner, man. God created land for man and not man for land. I believe that civilization will eventually transcend this philosophy. Living on our land together in amity and harmony is better than killing one another.

The land does not feel our death; nor does it feel our suffering. It is inanimate. It is man who grants this land life and the notion of feeling. We would rather find another world in which to expand, instead of thinking of wars that will make us perish. We must think of another world to accommodate us. If our minds become open, our existence becomes open. But existence grows narrower as our minds narrow.

Therefore, we must not pitch one sentiment against another. We should not use one sentiment of existence against another sentiment of existence, because existence against existence means annihilation.

The volcano on whose lip Israel was placed will not abate. The establishment of Israel in the heart of the Islamic world is a plot against the Jews. The Westerners have been able to get rid of the Jews gradually. The policy that aims to entrench Israel in the Middle East is a colonialist, racist policy, which directed the Jewish genius toward destruction and annihilation rather than construction and existence. However, I believe that humanity will have a different development, that it will transcend the notion of land and borders, and will think in terms of one fate, the unity of the

world, and the need to coexist in a single world. The development of civilization will impose this fact on man. A world war will wipe out the strong before wiping out the weak. This means that destiny is one, and the world is one. The problem lies with the fact that science and technology have surpassed cultural consciousness. This means that man is a universal being in his science and technology, but is an animal in terms of his existence, life, ideas, and thought.

[Nasir] But our men, women, and children in Palestine are courting martyrdom in defense of the land. What you have told the French reporter....

[Madani] For each talk there is an occasion. As for the Palestinian people, when I say the Jews were victims, I do not mean that the Palestinians have suffered less. The Palestinian people's tragedy is that they are suffering because they are fighting an injustice perpetrated against them by all of humanity.

In fact, the Palestinians were affected materially, but they proved their presence. Their cause is a cause of existence. However, this local existence paid the price of total existence, because Israel's establishment was intended to exhaust Arab oil resources. Therefore, Israelis and Palestinian die, the Arabs become poorer, and the others live in prosperity and "he" benefits by the money he obtains from the weapons he is manufacturing.

[Nasir] What about Jerusalem, the intifadah, the Palestinian state, the two state project, the land ... for the Palestinian people the land is very important?

[Madani] We are talking about the issue as a whole. The issue is of concern to all mankind, and will remain a blot on the face of this civilization. It will remain a landmark of total injustice committed against this human bloc and against this small part of the world.

The wealthy and the strong exploited the Palestinian cause and the weak and the poor paid the price. But will injustice prevail? Never. Injustice will eventually stop and will be replaced by justice, because it is protected by God. God supports those who support His cause.

Ghazali Urges Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue

LD2606143590 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Algeria this morning issued a call for a dialogue between Europe and the Mediterranean with a dual objective in view: to find an answer to regional conflicts and to the economic crisis. The call was contained in the speech made by Mr. Ghazali at the opening at the Aurassi Hotel of a meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of 10 Nonaligned Mediterranean states, plus the PLO. At a time when the Nonaligned Mediterranean countries are hoping to take advantage of the current policy of detente, it is noticeable that on some questions, like that of Palestine, the spirit of detente is absent. The beginning of a dialogue embarked on by the PLO and Washington has come to a sudden end through the wish of the United States, a wish which Palestinian foreign minister Faruq Qaddumi says is a wish by Washington to be aligned with Israel. What is the PLO planning to do if this is the case? That was the second [as heard] question Rashid Aswasi put to Mr. Qaddumi. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian people are continuing their struggle and deplore this about-face by the United States, which constitutes a further barrier to the proces of peace. Our people, Mr. Qaddumi stated, will continue their fight, the intifadah, and the overwhelming majority of the international community supports the efforts of the Palestinian people, whose republic is recognized by more than 90 states. Faced with this new situation, Mr. Qaddumi announced the holding of a meeting of the Arab League next Wednesday at 1800 on what the PLO considers to be an alignment of the United States on the policy of Israel, and which in fact constitutes a barrier to the process of peace.

It may be noted that President Chadli Bendjedid received the ministers of foreign affairs of the Nonaligned Mediterranean countries who are taking part in the proceedings of this third ministerial conference. The president invoked the need for more profound thought on the main objectives of the movement in the light of the changes which have taken place on the international arena, and the necessity of evaluating the methods of the movement so that it may rise to the new challenges.

Council Discusses Bill on Freedom of Association

LD2506130790 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Algiers, 25 Jun (APS)—The Council of Government which met Sunday here under the chairmanship of the head of government, Mouloud Hamrouche, examined a number of points mainly related to associations, trade and justice. The Council of Government examined a draft bill related to associations acting in the field of social, cultural and [word indistinct] activities. This bill is aimed at materializing the principle of the freedom of association which is recognized by the constitution of February 23, 1989. The [word indistinct] is a frame that is adapted to associations in order to enable them to carry out actions that are complementary to those of the state. [passage indistinct]

Ghardia Election Results Spark Disturbances

LD2406135990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Disturbances took place last night in the town of Berriane, in Wilaya of Ghardaia. Radio correspondent [name indistinct] said that as a result two people were killed. To shed more light on these disturbances, which appear to be still going on, here is a report from our correspondent from Ghardaia:

The town of Berriane in the Wilaya of Ghardaia did not sleep all night last night. Since this morning the town is nervously tense as a result of the disturbances. Clashes between the citizens took place; two people were killed; many were injured. Many shops were set ablaze by the rioters. Since the early hours of this morning the public security forces have been trying to halt these incidents and stop the rioters by using tear-gas bombs.

According to our initial information, the reasons for these regrettable incidents were due to the recent results of the municipal and provincial election in which the majority of seats here were won by the independents—a matter that did not satisfy the supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front for the FLN [National Liberation Front]. The incidents were also a direct reaction to the Wilaya judicial committee's decision of yesterday which rejected complaints by the two parties against the 12 June election in this municipality.

'Calm' Restored After Three Killed

LD2506124790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Excerpt] During contacts this morning, the authorities in Ghardaia confirmed to us that calm has returned to the city of Berriane [words indistinct]. The same sources confirmed that calm now prevails in the city following the events which left three dead and a number of injured, in addition to [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Conveys Mubarak Message to Bush

NC2606170490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1558 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Washington, 26 Jun (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to U.S. President George Bush, who received Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid at the White House at 1000 (Washington time) today.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, and Egyptian Ambassador in Washington 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Ridi Ghunaym. It was also attended on the U.S. side by Secretary of State James Baker and Brent Scowcroft, the U.S. President's national security adviser.

At the outset of the meeting, President Bush described the message as interesting.

The MENA correspondent in Washington has learned from sources in the Egyptian delegation that the meeting focused on the question of U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, which was recently suspended by the United States. The discussions also dealt with the Middle East peace process and the efforts Cairo and Washington can make together to move the peace process forward.

Dr. 'Ismat Abd-al-Majid described President Mubarak's message to the U.S. President as "a message of peace." In a statement to journalists at the White House after the meeting, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd- al-Majid said it was clear that the message left a good impression on President Bush.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized that Egypt is continuing to play its part in the efforts to establish peace and attain stability in the region. He said: What we are now trying to do is to promote the peace process. He added that Egypt hopes that all parties will exert efforts to help achieve this goal.

Responding to a question on Israel's stand, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said: We will work with the government that has been elected in Israel to achieve peace. He expressed hope that there will be a response in this regard. He affirmed that, for its part, Egypt is prepared to respond to any positive initiative from Israel.

The Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister responded to another question by emphasizing that the meeting with President Bush has been encouraging and that Egypt will continue to work hand in hand with the United States for peace, a goal to which both countries are committed.

Concluding his statement, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid noted that his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, which is scheduled for 1530 (Washington time) today, will focus on the "practical aspects" of the points contained in President Mubarak's letter, which the U.S. President received today.

Comments on Washington Talks

NC2706083490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0626 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Washington, 27 Jun (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that he held talks with U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker in Washington yesterday in accordance with President Husni Mubarak's instructions. These talks, he added, were part of timely Egyptian efforts that reflect a sincere desire for peace.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, who has concluded his talks with U.S. officials, said that Egypt began its current efforts after it found out that the parties concerned have not completely ruled out the possibility of resuming dialogue and efforts to stimulate the peace process. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid was referring in this regard to the statements issued by the Palestinian side, which reflect the PLO's desire to resume dialogue, and to the official statements by the United States, including a statement by the U.S. President himself saying that he is willing to resume the dialogue with the PLO if it accepts the conditions laid down for the resumption of that dialogue.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that all parties have appreciated the swiftness of the Egyptian move, which is inspired by the belief that every effort made for peace is worthwhile.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stated that he telephoned Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis last night to brief him on the talks with senior U.S. officials and the atmosphere which marked these talks on the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and the peace process in general.

Answering a question by a MENA correspondent in Washington, 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Egyptian view of the next stage of the peace process is that peace efforts should be resumed from the point where they left off when the previous Israeli government collapsed. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid declared that current efforts should build on what has been achieved on the long and rough road to peace and that all parties should add to these achievements and move steadily toward the goal of peace.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid described the EC statement concerning the Middle East as good, saying that it is a confirmation of the positive European stand concerning Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories. The EC, he said, denounces these practices and calls on Israel to observe international treaties and agreements.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid is due to leave Washington later this afternoon, Washington time. He will stop over in New York for a few hours, during which he will meet with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar for talks on the Middle East situation, with particular emphasis on measures to protect Palestinian civilians in the occupied Arab territories.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid will then leave New York for Italy for talks with Italian Prime Minister Guilio Andreotti. He is expected to return to Cairo on Saturday.

Paper Views Cheney Pledge on Israel's Security

NC2606120190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—AL-AHRAM expresses surprise at U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney's assertions concerning his country's commitment to Israel's military strength at a time when the most extremist government in the history of Israel is displaying signs of outright hostility.

In its editorial today, the paper says that, while Cheney declares that successful negotiations with the Palestinians and the Arab states could alone guarantee Israel's safety, Israel reveals only ugly faces, hostile intentions, sinful hands, and expansionist plans.

The paper adds that perhaps Cheney had some excuse since he was addressing the B'nai B'rith Zionist organization. Cheney emphasized that arms and technology alone cannot be effective in maintaining security. Nevertheless, he stressed that U.S. military assistance to Israel will continue. The paper notes that the situation has become so grim that one is quite anxious to see how the United States, in particular, will deal with the flagrant Israeli intransigence, especially since its President still talks about a similar commitment should it go forward with the peace process.

The paper concludes by saying that no one, perhaps not even Israel itself, knows what to do with such signs of blatant aggression. The cabinet is full of fanatics, and the key ministries are in the hands of the most extreme of extremists and expansionists, including the trio comprising Arens, Sharon, and Levi. It is truly a crisis government, one that was formed to fulfill a historic episode of the Zionist dream, the second step toward a greater Israel, regardless of the price.

Mubarak Receives Message From Gorbachev

NC2706103690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today received a written message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev dealing with current African affairs. The Soviet ambassador in Cairo delivered the message to Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. The ambassador said that the message forms part of the consultations between the two presidents regarding regional and international issues, as well as a continuation of the dialogue they started in Moscow.

MENA Reports 'Progress' Toward IMF Agreement

NC2706081890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Washington, 27 Jun (MENA)—It has been learned from informed sources in Washington that the current talks between Egypt and the IMF have made progress, opening the way, for the first time in a long period, for the establishment of bases for the expected agreement between the two parties.

The sources said that signs of this progress emerged in the past few weeks when an IMF team visited Cairo at the beginning of this month. The Egyptian delegation, led by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, which is currently in Washington, held a number of consultations with IMF officials to follow up these talks. The sources stressed that IMF officials have expressed their belief that the steps proposed by Egypt to implement a comprehensive program for economic reform—which it has started to put into effect gradually, aware as it is of the importance of reform and its long-term benefits—could be the starting point for a discussion of the detailed executive points for the Egyptian reform program, in preparation for drawing up the bases for an agreement between Egypt and the IMF.

Within the framework of these consultations, a meeting was held last night (Washington time) between Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Shakur Sha'lan, the official in charge of IMF operations in the Middle East. The

Egyptian delegation has also held several contacts with IMF officials during the past three days. In addition to this, economic issues, including the economic reform steps, were discussed during the talks that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid held last night with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

It is known that an agreement between Egypt and the IMF, which it is hoped will be signed before the end of this year, will allow Egypt to reschedule its debts with creditor countries that are members of the so-called Paris Club. It will also allow Egypt to obtain new aid, credits, and agreements to get the liquidity it needs to implement development projects in the next stage.

Abu-Talib Discusses Need for Self-Defense

NC2606140790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production, stated today that the challenges facing the Arab nation have doubled. This, he said, makes it incumbent upon us to develop our capabilities and to complete building our Armed Forces. He added: We believe in peace and are not engaged in the arms race. Our policy is designed to build up our military capabilities within the context of the need to defend ourselves and to prepare to confront any danger.

This came in a speech the minister of defense and war production delivered during a graduation ceremony for those attending the 19th course at the National Defense College and the 13th course at the Higher War College, including students from six Arab countries.

The minister of defense distributed diplomas to the top graduates.

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Arrives 26 Jun

NC2706062790 Cairo MENA in English 2224 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, June 26 (MENA)—The Uruguayan foreign minister arrived here tonight on a two-day visit.

Official talks between Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali and the visiting minister are scheduled to open tomorrow. They will discuss the Middle East developments. The talks will also focus on means to promote relations between the two countries in various fields.

Minister Issues Instruction on Algerians' Visas

NC2706061790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0335 GMT 27 Jun 90

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that, as part of the efforts to boost relations between Egypt and Algeria, Interior Minister Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has issued an instruction to the effect that Algerian travelers who have not obtained an entry visa in advance are to be allowed to enter the country. The instruction reverses an earlier one saying that Algerian travelers arriving in Egypt without previously having obtained entry visas were to be turned back at the ports.

Morocco

Patrol Boat Fires on 'U.S. Pleasure Boat'

LD2706102190 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] A U.S. pleasure boat has been machine-gunned near Tangiers by a Moroccan patrol boat. There are no further details about this incident. According to diplomatic sources in Rabat, quoted by the EFE news agency, it appears the Moroccan patrol boat confused the craft with a Spanish fishing boat.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister on Algerian Islamic Movement

PM2606104690 Paris LE MONDE in French 24-25 Jun 90 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Ismail Khelil by Michel Deure and Jean de la Gueriviere in Tunis—date not given]

[Excerpts] [LE MONDE] Can the important changes taking shape in Algeria following the local elections which were won by the Islamic movement influence the functioning and development of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA]?

[Khelil] The Maghreb is a profound aspiration of the North African peoples. The ultimate objective of the task we have undertaken is the building of economic and political cohesion under the watchword of development and progress. We are currently carrying out this building task in diversity. With regard to change, whatever its nature, we do not think it should influence the development of such an important project as the UMA.

[LE MONDE] Since the creation of the UMA, many projects have been announced. Can you assess what has actually now been achieved?

[Khelil] The Tunis summit, which met in January and which marked the start of the Tunisian chairmanship, created four permanent specialized ministerial commissions to identify the priority actions. A consensus was achieved in particular on the creation of a Maghreb University, an academy of sciences, and the harmonization of educational programs. Framework agreements on customs union, agreements to eliminate double taxation and to guarantee investments, a plan for a Maghreb commerce and development bank, an agreement on the energy market and a common agricultural market have already been drawn up. In the

sphere of basic infrastructure, a Maghreb freeway, air transport company, and marine tranport enterprise are planned. [passage omitted]

[LE MONDE] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, another UMA partner, does not conceal his underlying desire for an "Arab nation" which goes well beyond the Maghreb framework and would be achieved by the peoples over the heads of the governments. In these conditions, do you regard him as a reliable partner?

[Khelil] Like all the other UMA countries, Libya has always been part of the Maghreb. When the Jamahiriyah signed the UMA treaty no risks or conditions were expressed. With regard to whether or not the Libyan partner is reliable in view of the importance it attaches to Arab unity, I will simply reaffirm that that UMA charter includes this entity in a broader plan, which is precisely that of Arab union when conditions are right.

Prime Minister Karoui Meets French Counterpart

LD2206224790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Hamed Karoui conveyed today to his French counterpart, Michel Rocard, the satisfaction of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali over the development of French-Tunisian relations. An authorized Tunisian source has said that the two prime ministers reviewed during their conversation this morning at the Matingon bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction with the level of this cooperation. They confirmed in this context the need to steadily consolidate this cooperation, especially through the development of private investment and participation.

The source said the conversation also dealt with the issue of indebtedness, and pointed out that the prime minister stressed the need to find a solution to this problem within the context of the proposals made by President Ben Ali at various meetings and at several international quarters. [passage omitted]

Maghreb Council Hears Committee Reports

LD2606133790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The two-day proceedings of the second meeting of the first session of the Maghreb Consultative Council were concluded yesterday evening at Le Bardo Palace.

The Maghreb Consultative Council ratified the minutes of its first meeting held last February in Tunis. It then listened to the reports of the Committee of Planning, Finance and Economy, the Committee of Culture, Education and Information, the Committee of Youth and Social Affairs, the Committee of Political Affairs, and the Committee of Legal Affairs.

The council members' interventions focused during their discussions of these reports on highlighting the steps made on the path of joint Maghreb edification, and on laying more bricks for the embodiment of the aspirations of the region's peoples by unifying legislation in the fields of law, work, housing, mobility, setting up a Maghreb deputy card, adopting Maghreban strategies in the field of food security, combating natural catastrophes and pollution, unifying specifications, establishing the Maghreban customs' unity, and adopting a unified Maghreban currency.

A number of the members of the Maghreb Consultative Council tackled the challenges facing the five Maghreb countries such as indebtedness, the union's relations with the EEC, and the challenges facing the Arab homeland, such as the situation in the occupied territories.

The council members also tackled the negative consequences resulting from the U.S. Administration's decision to suspend its dialogue with the PLO, and the harm which will be caused to the Arab-U.S. relations. [passage omitted]

Minister Installs Land Forces Chief of Staff

LD2606133690 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Excerpt] A military ceremony was held this morning on the Defense Ministry premises during which Defense Minister Abdallah Kallel installed on behalf of His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the republic and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, General Mohamed Said Kateb, chief of staff attached to the Defense Ministry, in replacement of General Youssef Baraket, who was called to carry out diplomatic functions, and Major General Mohamed Hedi Belhoucine, chief of staff of the land forces. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Cabinet Regrets U.S. Decision, Disaster in Iran

JN2406143890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1207 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 24 Jun (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has regretted the U.S. decision to suspend its dialogue with the PLO, a step that will hamper peace efforts in the region. Bahrain urged the United States to cancel the decision to advance the peace process in the Middle East, especially since the current international detente encourages unified efforts to solve regional problems, including the Palestine question, through peaceful means.

This came during a Bahraini cabinet session in Manama today under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah.

Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs, said after the cabinet session that the cabinet had expressed its sorrow over the terrible earthquake disaster that hit Iran and claimed the lives of thousands of Iranian citizens. [passage omitted]

British Minister David Mellor on Visit

Received by Amir

JN2306163290 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Manama, June 23 (GNA)—H.H. The Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibin-Salman Al Khalifah received a written message from British Government dealing with bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

The message was conveyed by British State Minister for Home Affairs David Mellor [title as received] during his reception by H.H. the amir of Bahrain this morning.

The audience was attended by Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibin-Salman Al Khalifah, Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Force Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Hamad Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, Assistant Interior Undersecretary for Immigration and Passports Affairs Shaykh 'Ali Ibin-Khalifah Al Khalifah and British Ambassador to Bahrain John Alan Shepherd.

Mr. Mellor told GNA that he briefed H.H the amir on the British Government's appreciation to Bahrain's pioneering role in maintaining settlement in the Arabian Gulf region and the whole Arab region.

The British minister hailed the directives of H.H the amir, the prime minister and the crown prince for the interest of cooperation between Bahrain and the United Kingdom.

He also stressed that his talks with the Bahraini interior minister were focused on promoting security cooperation between the two countries.

Cited on PLO, Iran, Iraq

JN2406170490 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Manama, June 24 (GNA)—British Home Office Minister, Mr. David Mellor [title as received] voiced hope that the U.S. will resume its dialogue which was suspended with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Mellor confirmed, in an interview with the Bahraini Arabic daily 'AL-AYYAM', that his country will continue its dialogue with the PLO to push forward peace process in the Middle East.

He said the EEC has a candid viewpoint on the situation in the occupied Arab teritories, noting the next EEC summit due to be held in the next days will give clear indication regarding the matter.

Turning to British relations with Iran and Iraq, Mr. Mellor said according to Iran, diplomats are working to develop the relations between the two countries. [sentence as received]

On Iraq, he expressed hope that the situation will be normalised with the return of the British ambassador to Baghdad.

Anti-Narcotics Agreement Signed

JN2406182290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0948 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Manama, 24 Jun (WAKH)—An anti-narcotics agreement was signed here this morning between the State of Bahrain and Britain.

The agreement was signed for Bahrain by Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah. David Mellor, British minister of state at the Home Office [title as received], signed the agreement for Britain. British ambassador in Bahrain Alan Shepherd; Shaykh 'Ali Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah, assistant under secretary for emigration and passport affairs at the Ministry of Interior; and Bahraini Ministry of Interior officials attended the signing ceremony.

Leaves Manama 25 Jun

JN2506165390 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Manama, June 25 (GNA)—British Home Office Minister David Mellor [title as received] left Manama today back for Britain ending a several days visit to Bahrain.

The British minister held talks with officials on boosting bilateral relations and cooperation in various security fields.

An agreement to combat drugs trafficking was also signed between Bahrain and Britain.

Lebanese President Al-Hirawi, Delegation Arrive

Visit Previewed

JN2506173290 Manama WAKH in English 1652 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Manama, June 25 (GNA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and his accompanying delegation arrived in Manama this evening for a two-day visit to Bahrain.

He was received at the airport by H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of the BDF [Bahraini Defence Forces] Shaykh Hamad ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, ministers, senior government officials and the Lebanese consular agent Salam. [name as received]

While here, the Lebanese president will hold talks with H.H. the amir of Bahrain on the latest developments in the [Lebanese efforts?] being made to consolidate Lebanese unity and implement the al-Ta'if agreement to enable Lebanon to restore its security and stability.

The talks will also cover the current Arab situation and means of boosting Arab solidarity and issues of mutual interest in addition to bilateral relations.

Holds Talks With Amir

JN2606125890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Manama, 26 Jun (WAKH)—An official round of talks was held this morning between the Bahraini side led by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, and the Lebanese side headed by President Ilyas al-Hirawi. [passage omitted]

At the end of the official round of talks, Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah said that Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi reviewed current Lebanese developments and all the steps that have been taken to reunify Lebanon and restore security and stability there. He added that the Lebanese president gave a clear and detailed explanation of these developments to his highness the Bahraini amir.

The Bahraini foreign minister said that the Bahraini amir expressed his total support for the al-Ta'if accord and its provisions. He added: The Bahraini amir also expressed support for the legitimate Lebanese authority and for the steps that have been taken by the Tripartite Committee regarding the launching of an international fund for reconstruction in Lebanon. He pointed out that Bahrain espouses the principles contained in the al-Ta'if accord and supports the legitimate authority. He expressed the hope that peace efforts in fraternal Lebanon will continue, affirming that Arab and international support will continue to help restore peace and stability in Lebanon.

The Bahraini foreign minister said that Bahrain supports the launching of an international fund for reconstruction in Lebanon and the efforts to restore stability there, as there can be no stability without development. He added that these are the most important steps after the endorsement of the al-Ta'if accord.

The minister said that Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss expressed total confidence in the viability of the al-Ta'if accord provisions, considering that these basic provisions are in the interest of the Lebanese people. Al-Huss added that the implementation of these provisions is one of the most important objectives of the legitimate Lebanese government, the Bahraini minister added. The minister indicated that there are positive indicators showing that peace will be restored in Lebanon.

Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah pointed out that his highness the Bahraini amir and the Lebanese president reviewed during the round of talks the Arab situation in general and the Palestine question in particular. They also discussed the developments of the Palestine question and the efforts being made to end infighting so that Lebanon can surmount its 16-year ordeal, the Bahraini minister added.

The Bahraini foreign minister affirmed Bahrain's adherence to UN Security Council Resolution 425 which calls for the restoration of peace in Lebanon and also for an Israeli troop withdrawal from southern Lebanon. He added that Bahrain, along with other fraternal Arab states and the international community, is making efforts to see Lebanon reemerge as a pan-Arab center for cultural and civilizational advancement.

Al-Huss Views Peace Effort, 'Awn

JN2606185690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1436 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Manama, 26 Jun (WAKH)—Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss reports that the talks held today between His Highness Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and Lebanese President al-Hirawi were extremely positive. The Lebanese side met with great understanding from the Bahrainis concerning the latest developments in the Lebanese arena.

Premier al-Huss said today at a press conference attended by local, Arab, and foreign correspondents and media men that President al-Hirawi's tour was designed to explain the Lebanese cause in all its aspects and dimensions and to determine if the Arab brothers could offer aid to help save Lebanon from its crisis and to speed up the steps required for this purpose. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese prime minister called on the Arab countries to support Lebanon in international forums to keep pressuring the aggressor country, Israel, to withdraw from Lebanon in implementation of international Resolution 425, which was agreed upon unanimously by the international community.

Concerning the request by the general [Michel 'Awn] for the al-Ta'if accord to be amended, Dr. Salim al-Huss said that the thing between the former Army commander and the legitimate Lebanese Government could not be called a quarrel. He said that it was a rebellion against the government. He noted that the legitimate Lebanese Government functions in accordance with the Constitution and the law and is represented by the president and the national accord government.

He described General 'Awn as a rebel against the legitimate government and called on him to join the march of peace and accord. He pointed out that this problem has caused many tragedies and much fighting in the eastern sector.

He declared that the Lebanese Government is working to end this tragic situation by uniting the land and people and retrieving the unity of institutions, foremost of which is the Lebanese Army.

Regarding al-Ta'if accord, Dr. Salim al-Huss stated that his government abided by the accord, since it is the formula to save Lebanon from trials that have gone on for too long; it must be implemented some day.

Premier al-Huss stressed that any positive reaction to a request to amend the al-Ta'if accord will naturally lead to many other requests for amendments. He explained that abandoning the al-Ta'if accord means going back to the circumstances before al-Ta'if, thus abandoning the homeland, Lebanon.

Dr. al-Huss rejected Gen 'Awn's appeal and called on him to join the peace march and recognize and observe the al-Ta'if accord.

He said that if he wants to make any amendments to the accord, he has to first join the peace march so that when the al-Ta'if accord comes into force and becomes the legal constitution, he can then object to whatever he wants in a political, democratic, and civilized way through the constitution's institutions.

He added that after the al-Ta'if accord is implemented and takes its course, becoming a legal constitution, anyone can then object to the contents of the al-Ta'if accord through the Chamber of Deputies or by leading a party or other or heading a group or front. The individual can then call for and work on amending whatever he wishes to amend using the proper means. [passage omitted]

Depart for Abu Dhabi

JN2606191090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1432 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Manama, 26 Jun (WAKH)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi left Manama this afternoon for Abu Dhabi after an official visit to the State of Bahrain which lasted two days as part of a tour of countries in the region.

President al-Hirawi held talks during his visit with Bahraini Amir His Highness 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah on bilateral relations and means of promoting them, the latest developments in the Lebanese arena, and current Arab issues and matters of mutual interest.

At the head of those who saw the Lebanese president off were his highness the amir of Bahrain. He was also seen off by Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah and a number of ranking military and civilian Bahraini officials.

Brunei Minister Arrives for Air Transport Accord

JN2606182290 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Manama, June 26 (GNA)—Brunei's Minister of Communication 'Abdul Aziz Bin Umar arrived here today on a three-day visit to Bahrain to sign an agreement on air transportation between Bahrain and Brunei.

He was received by Minister of Development and Industry and Acting State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi.

Kuwait

Iraq's Hammadi Comments on Oil Prices, OPEC

LD2606162690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1442 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 26 (KUNA)—An Iraqi ranking official here Tuesday predicted that Arab oil producing countries would hold a summit meeting if the oil prices continues to deteriorate, indicating that the current oil market situation necessitates a decisive stand by (?concerned) decision makers.

Member of the Revolutionary Command Council and deputy prime minister Sa'dun Hammadi also said that he believes a 25-dollar per barrel is a fair price.

Hammadi is in Kuwait in the framework of a tour to a number of Gulf states designed to narrow the differences in viewpoints over oil policies and production levels before a July 25 meeting for the Ministerial Committee of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The Iraqi official has been advising the Gulf states to curb their oil production to be consistent with the quotas set by OPEC in an attempt to strengthen oil prices, currently facing a sharp decline as demand for oil is less than supplies.

In his press conference which was held at the Iraqi Embassy, Hammadi expressed satisfaction over his visit to Kuwait, saying that he briefed his highness the amir on Iraq's viewpoints regarding the international oil market.

He said the Kuwaiti amir has reflected Kuwait's keen interest to abide by its OPEC oil quota (1.5 million bpd) to serve the general interest of the organization.

He also commended the responses of the Gulf states which he visited before Kuwait, namely the UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Reflecting his country's prospects over the oil market situation, the Iraqi envoy said world demand for oil will grow in the next ten years which entails an increase in the overall production of OPEC.

He added that only four Arab states can meet this increased demand for oil, and they are Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the UAE and Kuwait.

OPEC, he said, is currently seeking to legalize production to determine a production ceiling based on several considerations such as the size of the population, developmental project and oil reserves.

However, Hammadi stated that Iraq believes that there is no need to consider a new quota agreement before realizing a 25 dollar per barrel price, calling for maintaining OPEC's current ceiling of production.

Asked why Iraq is taking the initiative at this time to stabilize the oil market and eliminate overproduction by OPEC members, he responded that the effect on the Iraqi economy has been tremendous and the harm has been so damaging.

He added that Iraq spoke out because "the knife has reached the bones after penetrating the flesh."

[Kuwait KUNA in English at 1459 GMT, in a Kuwait-datelined garbled report notes "Sa'dun Hammadi left here Tuesday"]

United Arab Emirates

Algerian Oil Minister Discusses OPEC Affairs

JN2306105390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Jun (WAKH)—Sadek Boussena, Algerian minister of mines and OPEC chairman, left Abu Dhabi today after a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The Algerian minister held talks with UAE Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah to discuss stability in the world oil market and preparations to convene the OPEC ministerial meeting in July.

Iraq's Hammadi Arrives With Message for Zayid

JN2306104890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Jun (WAKH)—Sa'dun Hammadi, member of Iraq's Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, arrived in Abu Dhabi at noon today on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. Hammadi will convey a written message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Received by Shaykh Zayid

JN2306173090 Manama WAKH in English 1538 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Sir Bani Yas, UAE, June 23 (GNA)—UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received a written message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dealing with the brotherly ties and cooperation between the two countries.

The message was delivered by Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) member and Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi during a meeting with Shaykh Zayid at Sir Bani Yas Island this evening.

The Iraqi envoy arrived in Abu Dhabi earlier in the day.

The meeting was attended by UAE Minister of Information and Culture Shaykh Ahmad Bin-Hamad and Taha Rajab 'Uraym, Iraqi ambassador to the UAE.

Leaves Following Visit

JN2406173090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Jun (WAKH)—Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, left Abu Dhabi today at the conclusion of a short visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

During the visit, Dr. Hammadi conveyed a written message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan on fraternal ties and bilateral cooperation.

Lebanese President Arrives in Abu Dhabi 26 Jun

JN2606191290 Manama WAKH in English 1638 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 26 (GNA)—The Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi arrived here this evening on an official visit to the UAE [United Arab Emirates].

He was met at the airport by President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

President al-Hirawi will hold talks with Shaykh Zayid on means of enhancing bilateral relations and the situation in Lebanon.

Shaykh Zayid Receives Eritrean Delegation

JN2706063190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Jun (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], received here today an Eritrean delegation including member of the Political Office of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, Mr. Mohammed Said Esmail, and the Front's representative to the Gulf countries Mr. Mohammed Osman Omar.

The delegation informed his highness the UAE president of the latest developments in the Eritrean arena.

Perez de Cuellar To Meet 'Aziz, Velayati

JN2706064690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Excerpt] United Nations, 26 Jun (INA)—It was officially announced here that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will meet in Geneva next week with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian foreign minister. Official spokesman Francois Juliani said that Perez de Cuellar will hold separate meetings with the foreign ministers of the two countries on Tuesday [3 July]. [passage omitted]

Plane Laden With Aid for Iran To Leave 27 Jun

JN2606180590 Baghdad INA in English 1700 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 26, INA—INA learnt that Iraqi relief aid to Iran's recent earthquake victims will leave tomorrow. A special transport plane bound for Tehran is carrying 24 tons of relief aid including medicine, medical equipment, and supplies.

Senegalese Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit 24 Jun

Carries Presidential Message

JN2406112990 Baghdad INA in English 0955 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 24, INA—Mr. Oumar Sy, Senegalese foreign minister arrived here this morning on a visit to Iraq. Speaking on arrival, the Senegalese minister told INA correspondent that he was carrying a message to President Saddam Husayn from President Abdou Diouf of Senegal.

Confers With Tariq 'Aziz

JN2406115690 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 24, INA—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met here today his Senegalese opposite number Oumar Sy. During the meeting, both officials discussed bilateral ties, preparations under way for holding the Islamic summit conference in Senegal early next year, new events on the international arena and their reflections on situation in the Third World countries besides the Arab and regional situation.

Received by Saddam

JN2506163090 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 25, INA—President Saddam Husayn received today Senegalese Foreign Minister Oumar Sy, who conveyed to his excellency a written message from President Abdou Diouf. The message dealt with bilateral ties and means necessary for cementing them in all domains, current preparations for holding the Islamic summit conference in the Senegal next year and the situation between Mauritania and Senegal.

During the audience, President Husayn confirmed Iraq's keenness to develop friendship and brotherly relations with Senegal in various fields stressing on the necessity of tackling problems among the Islamic nations through dialogue and on the basis of principles of the Islamic doctrine and good neighbourliness. President Husayn also confirmed that differences could never achieve gains to any party because they threaten security, stability and opportunities of development and progress.

Present at the audience was Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister.

Departs After Two-Day Visit

JN2606114890 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 26, INA—Mr. Oumar Sy, Senegalese foreign minister left Baghdad this morning at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Iraq. In a statement to INA, the minister expressed appreciation to President Saddam Husayn and his endeavours to maintaining peace in the region and the whole world.

During the visit, described by the minister as fruitful, he handed over a message to President Saddam Husayn from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf on bilateral relations. He also held talks with Iraqi officials on bilateral cooperation and preparations to convene the Islamic summit conference in Senegal next year.

Embassy Aide in Brazil Recounts Attempted Kidnap

PM2706152290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jun 90 pp 1, 2

[By Zaki Shihab]

[Excerpts] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—An official of the Iraqi Embassy in Brazil has announced that the night before last the Brazilian police arrested one of the people who took part in the the attempt to kidnap Mr. Tariq Ahmad, Iraqi trade counselor, and his wife.

Mr. Nabil Khalil Nasr, press counselor at the Iraqi Embassy, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone that the three kidnappers, who fled after the abortive kidnapping attempt on Sunday night left, behind a revolver and wallet containing the identity card and a photograph of one of the kidnappers.

Iraqi Trade Counselor Tariq Ahmad (42) told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone the details of the attempt to kidnap him. He, with his wife (36) next to him, was trying to the start the car after a visit to a colleague when three gunmen struck. They ordered him to get out of the car and forced him to sit in the rear seat, where one gunman sat next to him. The other two sat in the front seat and drove the car at a very high speed heading out of town. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi trade counselor said that the kidnapping operation started at 2330 hours and lasted 15 minutes and was like a "fast movie" during which the kidnappers' aims were not specified.

He said that three young men were of Brazilian appearance and one of them hit his wife on the head and hands. Tariq Ahmad, a father of three, added that the incident was the first of its kind involving staff of the Iraqi Embassy in Brazil.

The Brazilian federal police are expected to refer the detainee, whose name has not been revealed, to the court shortly after conducting further questioning to identify his partners and the motives behind the kidnapping attempt.

Paper Assails U.S. Decision To Suspend Dialogue

JN2406083090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms that the U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO is a blackmail attempt by Washington aimed at making the PLO offer concessions that are detrimental to the Palestinian people and to their just cause.

In a commentary on the U.S. decision published today, the paper says that lack of good faith and seriousness were prominent traits that marked the U.S. position throughout the duration of the dialogue. This prompted those who are well aware of the history of the U.S. policy to expect the suspending of the dialogue before the U.S. Administration officially adopted such a decision, the paper adds.

The paper goes on to say: We say confidently that these attempts will fail because the PLO and its leadership know where the interests of their people lie and also because, once they heard of the U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO, the masses of the occupied territories took to the streets and staged massive demonstrations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, expressing support for the PLO and chanting anti-U.S. and anti-Zionist slogans.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: The other important lesson to be learned from the recent U.S. position is that while launching an unjust campaign against lofty Iraq, the United States confirmed to all Arabs that it scorns their causes and ignores their feelings. This U.S. position is further elucidated when we note that it was adopted in the wake of the Baghdad summit in which the Arabs expressed unanimous support for Iraq and the Palestine question.

The paper says that the U.S. decision will fail to achieve its objectives because he who sows wind will not harvest air.

Saddam Views Pan-Arabism, Palestine, Islam

JN2706075390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has affirmed that national thinking, without a pan-Arab bridge of close interaction linking the Arab nation's present to its past even with the existence of differences in viewpoints, is bound to lead to introversion and isolation.

Speaking at the pan-Arab symposium on the thinking of Ba'th Party founder the late comrade Michel 'Aflaq which he partly attended, the president said that now minimum agreement has been reached, there should be no clash, and that accepting a compromise on what is below minimum agreement will mean moving from a state above deterioration to a state of deterioration.

The president said national security has merged with pan-Arab security and the Baghdad summit has decided that local national resources must merge with the resources of the entire Arab nation and not remain isolated. The following is the text of the president's speech:

Brothers, I have come in order to listen to your discussions. I am one of you. I thank my brothers and sisters for attending this symposium. Your presence in Baghdad is not only an expression of homage to Michel 'Aflaq for his known contribution to Arab national thinking and struggle, but also an honor to all of us. I thank you in my name and on behalf of my brothers for coming to Baghdad and for the great effort you have made in order to pay tribute to Michel 'Aflaq, his thinking, and his role.

No doubt, before coming here each one of you has prepared what he wants to say. I have come here essentially to meet with you. It is not difficult for any one of us to point out the Arab nation's main concerns.

I believe the concept mentioned in Mr. 'Abdallah's lecture about "linking the present with the future" is the point we must concentrate on as a nation.

We must ask ourselves: How do we view the present; how can we link it organically with the future; and what steps must we take? How also do we view the future; do we see it better now that we have discussed it?

We all entirely agree that the Arab nation lost many opportunities, most important of which are the ones lost through faults of its own. Not only the evil ones or the deviators were responsible for this, but also the good ones who lost many opportunities and harmed themselves. The most important of these lost opportunities has been the failure to control their resources, which were wasted as a result of the marginal disputes among the good elements from among the Arab strugglers and thinkers. The national and pan-Arab struggle cannot escape inherent distinctive peculiarities in one form or another according to the type of the organization involved. However, this distinction was transformed in most cases into a kind of selfishness and a withdrawal

into oneself leading to the inevitable clash with other organizations that emerged on the arena of struggle in the Arab homeland. Therefore, the evildoers exploited the loopholes that were created by the collisions among these organizations under these pretexts.

We have so many examples of this type. Some of us saw them, some heard about them, and some experienced them whether on the level of Arab regimes, the national and revolutionary political movements, or the Arab thinkers. There were many causes for this. The Arabs did not have the opportunity to carry out political activities collectively and within the modern concepts. They did not have the necessary time that the European political movements, for instance, could afford. They did not have the opportunity to carry out collective, organized activities or to hold direct discussions until World War I when certain currents appeared and limited parties were established. These parties grew and proliferated after World War II.

The most harmful development to the Arabs was this disturbing polarization which was imposed on them and on other world nations and forced them to be divided between two poles. Those who served the U.S. policy in one form or another either feared the danger of communism or used pretexts and sought protection under the shadow of the U.S. policy and the West in general.

Many of those who sincerely claimed to resist Western colonialism were dragged to the shadow of the so-called Eastern bloc. This resulted in wasting resources and weakening the unity and ideology of the Arab nation as a whole.

Therefore, we must not forget what we say. We must deal with positive effects when we say that God be praised, the struggle between the two blocs has ended not only for general humanitarian reasons but for pan-Arab reasons so that Arab nationalism might take its proper, correct place and be balanced in its vision and, more importantly, in its policies, which emanate from its original thought. Therefore, as one of you, I expect the clashes between the peculiarities on the local, national, and even pan-Arab levels to abate to a great extent and to be replaced by joint bridges in terms of ideology and politics.

It is not true to say that the absence of conflict between the superpowers has hurt the cause of pan-Arab struggle, given that the Soviet Union is no longer as interested in the region's affairs as it was previously.

This is to oversimplify things and see them from the perspective of helplessness. It is to play on superpower rivalries in the absence of indigenous forces to serve national interests. We must expect ferocious attacks by forces hostile to the revival of the Arab nation. As you see, the attack has already begun.

We had expected this attack at the Amman summit of the Arab Cooperation Council in February. Then, it was mere speculation, and yet it was based on tangible evidence. Now the outlines of the attack are clear. Is it for economic, geographic, and military reasons that the West, or some Western nations, seek to thwart Arab ambitions? Or is it mainly cultural—something to do with the role of the Arab nation extending beyond the geographic boundaries of the Arab homeland to the world at large?

A truly pan-Arab thought is necessarliy humanitarian, and as such is bound to be of international rather than just regional outlook.

If this idea is not always apparent to us, it is more readily understood by Western strategists who realize that, just as it was feasible in the past, it is possible at present. It is for this reason that the Arab nation has been made to split into 22 parts, and that, thank God, is now one part fewer with the Yemeni unity now in place. Is it possible for any nationalist thought to remain so if it is not also pan-Arab? Bereft of its pan-Arab dimension, national thought can only lead to isolationism and insularism. Parochialism of a given nation means a reduced level of its energies. Indeed, a mental attitude of isolationism is likely to make politicians more comfortable dealing with forign powers than with the nation to which they belong.

With God's help, if the right balance is achieved between established Arab regimes and their masses, and if the most is made of the capabilities of the masses and political organizations in the Arab world, the Arab nation will make rapid progress. To date, whenever there has been a divergence in the respective outlooks of Arab regimes and leaders, more often than not, the result was confrontation leading to a mutual drain on their resources. It is now imperative that we make every effort to head off such confrontations. But whoever of us fails to meet the minimum of common ground, we are duty-bound to be in confrontation with him.

To my way of thinking, in order for us to minimize the chances of confrontation, there should at least be a modicum of common ground among the ideological and political movements in the Arab world. Common action based on dialogue should make that goal achievable. In that case, whoever breaks ranks will have departed from the common ground. Whoever departs from the consensus agreed at the recent Baghdad emergency summit will have breached an accord, and confrontation with him thus becomes legitimate.

There is another point which I find appropriate to talk about at this meeting. This point concerns Palestine.

Arab official and public position on Palestine in 1948 and 1967 was essentially pan-Arab in the imagination and behavior of many people. After that date, however, and particularly now, the position on the Arab-Israeli conflict is not just pan-Arab, but both pan-Arab and national. In 1948 also, the sacrifices made by the Iraqis for the sake of Palestine were essentially pan-Arab. In 1990, however, the sympathies of the Iraqis vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict are not just pan-Arab, but both pan-Arab and national.

Why are these sacrifices both pan-Arab and national?

Israel has reached the point where it will either continue to fulfill its slogan of "from the Nile to the Euphrates" or will retreat from it. Of course, Israel's retreat would be for a stratgegic, not a short-term, tactical reason. The retreat would be ideological not political. Israel would seek to interfere in school textbooks in the Arab states such as saying that chemistry leads to binary chemicals, that teaching physics and mathematics leads to dealing with the atom, that this leader is good and that is bad, that the deputy ruler in such and such country is hostile and the other loyal, and that this crown prince is good and that is bad.

Such matters were not clear in 1948 and 1967. But they have become very clear now. Therefore, compromise on the Palestine question is not harmful only to Palestinians, but to all Arabs, especially the countries of the Arab East, although one cannot separate the Arab East from the Arab Maghreb because whatever harms the one single nation anywhere harms the entire nation. There can be no spectators or bystanders since national security has merged with pan-Arab security. As agreed at the Baghdad summit, local Arab national resources must merge with the resources of the entire Arab nation, otherwise the national resources will be isolated.

If, for instance, the Iraqis say: With our oil, our economy will soon prosper and we will be wealthier. So, let us leave Palestine and the Palestinians alone. Such talk must be considered as nonpatriotic and anti-Arab, because such talk will only make it easier for Israel to expand and reach the Iraqi borders.

If country 'X' says God has relieved the believers of the evil of war [part of Koranic verse], let us live on our billions, and leave things as they are, it will be wasting the Arab nation's resources because these resources will not be used correctly in promoting national and pan-Arab security. Such a stand will only serve the foreigner because the Arab people will not accept it. And when the Arabs reject this stand, those concerned in this state and that regime will feel that they are strangers in their own surroundings and will seek protection under the shadow of the foreigners in or outside the region. Therefore, the national has merged with the pan-Arab and the local merged with the general; so the struggle for Palestine and the liberation of Palestine—talk of which had receded for a long period of time and been replaced with general, lifeless diplomatic words—now means the struggle to safeguard Baghdad, Cairo, Damascus, Sanaa, Riyadh, and Kuwait. Without such an understanding, we will be like one who does not see the enemy approaching to stab him.

We had bitter experience in 1948, 1967, 1973, and in eight years of war on the eastern front. During those eight years, every hill in Iraq was covered with iron because it was under shelling all those years. Many hills were captured and recaptured many times in a single battle, and in the end we stuck to them and remained there. We exchanged positions in attacks and retreats so the civilians among us learned to present their own military theories. It was a practical lesson extending over an eight-year period. It qualifies one for a doctorate degree.

After all these bitter experiments, the Arab nation should not be permitted to wonder if conditions will be better. We are no longer permitted to do this. We should say yes, they will be better, God willing. We should no longer ask: Will it be? We have been saying this since we left the Ottoman Empire.

Regardless of differences in views, the basic thing is to make firm decisions in the service of the nation and the people. A firm decision should rely on the invisible power of the people even if they are a small people. Our nation is not small. Even if the people are limited in number, absolute faith in the popular base should be taken as a basic factor. Interaction with the people will create the richest and most powerful resources in clashing with the enemy if this enemy tries to tamper with our organizations and systems and disturbs the minds and plans of the people.

With these simplified ideas—even if they are based on general conceptions of life—the Arab nation can realize everything. God Almighty has entrusted man with this role after the Messenger, Muhammad, peace be upon him. Having made Muhammad the last of the prophets, God gave people the characteristics of prophets although these characteristics are not confined to a single person.

If man managed the role of prophet—the prophets' message being to move things—how great that man must be. He must be to blame for any debasement of his standing and his capabilities. There is nothing that a believing human being cannot do, except that which properly belongs to God alone. So, it is only a question of how man handles the time and resources available to him.

God willing, Palestine is on the way [of being liberated]. You know that when we say that Palestine is coming, we are thus dependent on all the benevolent elements of the Arab nation as well as on all the benevolent children of the Arab nation—leaders, workers, peasants, and simple farmers in their factories and fields. This applies as much to the gentlest woman as to the toughest of men in the Arab homeland, wherever they are. If you think I am being merely sentimental, let me tell you that a human devoid of emotions will not be able to achieve anything.

We were with our people—your people, of course—when they went to war. The Arab nation knows how to fight. If some people used to say the Arab nation fought with swords and spears, the Arab nation has since irrefutably proved on more than one occasion, and more recently during the eight years [of the Gulf war] that when the Arab nation has right on its side and makes provisions for war, it can be as tough as can be. The Arab nation has shown that it can fight using not only swords, spears and shields but all types of up-to-date, sophisticated weaponry.

I would repeat that by talking this way I am not just waxing sentimental. Having fought for eight long years, we appreciate the value of words. We also know that,

God willing, good times are yet ahead for the Arab nation, and this will come from within rather than from across the border. We are not supposed to exert greater efforts than those we have built into ourselves. We ought not to be wasting our time looking beyond the capabilities of the Arab nation. Sometimes, it is due to failure to recognize our resources rather than their absence that brings hesitation and weakness. And, more importantly, hesitation and weakness are caused by the failure to use the resources as and when they should.

We heard Dr. 'Abdallah Ibrahim say in a recent lecture that in the Arab world nationalism and religion are more interlinked than they are elsewhere in other nations, and more particularly, in the West. That much was also pointed out by Michel 'Aflaq and fellow Arab intellectuals and politicians. Here, I would underscore one point among many. Arabs spread Islamic religion around the Arab world and beyond. The Arabs were the swords or spears of religion, and they were the agency that propagated it and won adherents to it and spread it far and wide at a time when the West could put no claim to such a thing. They were recipients of religion. When nationalism and religion clash in the West, it is due to this fact. They received their religion secondhand. They did not have to make sacrifices on behalf of their religion before it got to Europe. By contrast, every Arab household had some blood spilt in the interest of the message getting where it did. This is in addition to many other factors in the Koran and Prophet Muhammad's career, and in history. Therefore, we have nothing to fear from waging our struggle under the precept of Islam and its benevolent principles, except if these ideas are in conflict with Arabism.

There is no clash whatsoever between struggling under the banner of Islam anywhere in the world and Arabism. Those who think otherwise are prejudging people who may be the cream of the nation. But we have to be watchful. If we find that some Arabs are contriving battles with Arab nationalism, then we must realize that divisions and regression have begun. Then we must realize that such an approach is at odds with the spirit of both the pan-Arab struggle and Islamic religion.

This is not to say that we are waging our struggle under religious slogans, and you know it. I feel, though, that at such a symposium, I had to make this point, as the national and pan-Arab struggle have suffered many setbacks. Our struggle has also been reviled, with nationalists and pan-Arabists at each others's throats, some of them going so far as to commit outrages as they pursued power. On the other hand, struggle under known banners has become known to the machinery of the state against which the struggle is waged. The state machine is well trained and has behind it long experience in dealing with opposition and its ways. The slavish and superficial copying from the West sometimes leads to the adoption of slogans where religion and politics mix. True struggle makes Arabism and Islam one thing rather than two separate things. Wherever Arabism is in conflict with Islam, or wherever Islam is in conflict with Arabism, aberration is inevitable—aberration under the guise of spiritualism, civilization, or materialism.

Levi Remarks on Baker Plan Reflect 'New' Policy

TA2706061290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jun 90 p 1

[By diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi yesterday rejected U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's formula for a Palestinian delegation to peace talks which would include deportees from the territories and East Jerusalemites.

Senior officials who asked not to be identified confirmed that Levi's statement reflected new government policy. It is the most unequivocal rejection by Israel of Baker's proposal to date.

Levi indicated that such representatives to the talks would place Israel on a slippery slope. At the same time, he expressed the hope that other unspecified ways can be found to begin the talks.

Speaking to reporters after meeting special UN envoy Jean-Claude Aime at a Jerusalem hotel where the foreign minister is convalescing after a mild heart attack, Levi said Baker's proposals were supportive of Palestinian positions.

"I am for Israel saying yes to Baker and no to the PLO," Levi said. "The question of the deportees is the demand of the PLO. We are talking about deportees that the PLO will decide upon, and they (the deportees) form the cornerstone of the concept of 'return' and this is not acceptable to Israel."

Levi continued: "The second thing is Jerusalem Arabs (whose inclusion) means that from the start the subject of Jerusalem will be at the centre of discussions."

Israel wants to improve ties with the U.S., but the friendship between the countries means that Israel should not stand "accused," Levi said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's upcoming reply to President George Bush's "lengthy" letter of two weeks ago remains at the focus of diplomatic activity in Jerusalem. Shamir's response, which has gone through many drafts, is being viewed as the first major policy statement of the new government on the peace process. Policymakers in both the U.S. and Israel anticipate that the document will prove to be the decisive indicator of whether the peace process has any life left.

Europe Seen Supplanting Superpowers in Mideast

TA2606154890 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Jun 90 pp 8, 9

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "A Suspended Dialogue—Not Only With the PLO"]

[Text] Shamir, Arens, and Netanyahu's joy over the suspension of the U.S.-PLO dialogue now seems premature. The Likud, however, has reason to be pleased. In the end, its unrelenting claim that the PLO has not changed and that there is no chance that it will—which is why the political process should proceed without it—was "proven" correct. However, the way things stand now, Washington decided to suspend the dialogue for the opposite reasons.

Washington is convinced that it is impossible to exclude the PLO from any serious political process, including the Baker plan. The suspension thus serves as a catalyst for a process of moderation in the PLO. It is therefore clear—and President Bush said as much openly—that the U.S. Administration rejects the Likud's notion, and has not yet said the last word on the matter. On the contrary, in its talks with the PLO, which continued even after the Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] operation, the United States for the first time suggested raising the level of the contacts. The Likud may be sorely disappointed once the political process resumes.

The suspension of the dialogue did not harm only the moderate flank of the PLO, it also eroded the status of the United States as a superpower leading the political processes in the Middle East. We should therefore not be surprised when, once the renewal of the dialogue becomes topical again, Washington is forced to listen to the demands the PLO will present—and not only present its own demands to that organization—which will include, besides raising the level of the dialogue and including topics important to the PLO, a basic requirement that Baker address his plan earnestly. In other words: pressure on Israel.

The suspension of the dialogue is seen primarily as an admission of failure. The Baker plan was based on the dialogue, and the contacts in Tunis would have made it possible for a Palestinian delegation representing the inhabitants of the territories to be composed. But now it is evident that the United States will not be able to live up to its declarations on pursuing the Baker plan from the exact point where it was halted, namely Israel's response to Baker, because the Israeli Government's response will be based on the premise that there is no U.S.-PLO dialogue. Yet Washington will have to renew the dialogue immediately to facilitate the formation of the delegation.

The government may not have noticed it, but in reality it was not only the dialogue with the PLO that Washington decided to suspend; it also suspended its talks with Jerusalem. Baker insists on getting an affirmative answer to his question, elevating this issue by according it a status nearly as important as his demand that the PLO expel Abu-al-'Abbas. There will be no dialogue with the PLO as long as that man is still a member of that organization, and there will be no invitation to David Levi or Yitzhaq Shamir to visit Washington as long as no positive response to Baker has been forthcoming. After Baker's famous congressional hearing, during which he gave Israel the White House phone number, Washington explained: We are waiting for a telephone call from all the sides. Israel may be the target of greater rage, because

the PLO helped promote the Baker plan more substantially than Jerusalem, but the Abu-al-'Abbas operation "balanced" the anger.

The Arab world interprets the suspension of the dialogue with the PLO as signifying the failure of the Baker plan and as a manifestation of U.S. weakness. In the eyes of the Arab world, Baker and Bush do not project the same kind of aura of a world-class superpower as President Eisenhower did when he forced Israel to withdraw from the Sinai, or President Carter in his involvement in the attainment of the Israeli-Egyptian peace. The United States is also viewed as a declining superpower and as incapable of fulfilling a neutral role in the Middle East due to the clout the pro-Israeli lobby wields in Congress. Since the Soviet Union's power is also waning, Western eyes seem to focus more and more on the EEC.

The Council of Europe is currently meeting in Ireland, and the vacuum that has been created in the Middle East will most probably not elicit an interested reaction by the EEC. While one must not expect any dramatic resolutions, since the EEC does not wish to step on U.S. toes, there is hardly any doubt that the EEC will decide to take advantage of the opportunity presented. We will consequently soon witness growing European involvement in the Palestinian problem. The EEC has already forced Israel to market goods from the territories directly, and other topical issues are the direct import of EEC goods into the territories, protecting human rights in the territories, and appointing a European representative to the territories.

This scenario is well known in Washington and the pro-American Arab capitals of Cairo and Riyadh. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left for Washington in yet another attempt to dissuade Baker from insisting on a positive reply to his question because Shamir has no intention of complying. The main thing is to launch a dialogue, hoping that diplomacy could pave new pathways which would permit the simultaneous resumption of the dialogue with the Palestinians. Waiting for a phone call from Shamir could accelerate the negative processes in the Middle East, whose frightening visage we felt tangibly in the Baghdad summit.

That is why much of credence should be given to the weekend reports that Washington has asked Britain to temporarily step into its shoes in regard to the dialogue with the PLO, so as not to cut off contacts, and to block potentially dangerous developments within that Palestinian organization. Late last month British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd went on a comprehensive tour of the Middle East, in the course of which he expressed positions far more similar to U.S. positions than to those of the EEC where the Middle East political process was concerned. It is common knowledge that the EEC and Washington differ over the issue of the international conference. The Europeans wish to engage in the political process as participants in that conference, whereas Washington favors a direct Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. Britain is a member of the EEC, but still has its own opinion on many issues. In regard to the Middle East, Hurd supported a direct Israeli-Palestinian dialogue "as a model for the international conference."

Britain and the United States are cooperating in other areas in the Middle East as well, often in contravention of Brussels' positions, and Jerusalem has no reason to rejoice. One clear example is the emerging new policy toward Iran. The contacts toward the release of Hizballah-held hostages are merely one aspect of the power struggles in Tehran, where President Rafsanjani and his followers are gradually gaining the upper hand over such ideologues of the Khomeyni revolution as 'Ali Khamene'i and Ahmad Khomeyni, the son of the venerated imam, and Hizballah. Washington and the EEC are competing for Rafsanjani's favors the day he finally triumphs over his foes. Unlike before, this time the United States excluded Israel from these contacts—both as a lesson from Irangate and because links with the incumbent Israeli Government serve as no "sales promoter" in the Arab world and Iran. Discussion about defreezing the Iranian assets in the United States has already begun, and Britain, Washington's European ally, has already struck deals with Iran.

This development already has one significant outcome in Lebanon, where the cooperation between the superpowers and West Europe constantly bolsters elected President Ilyas al-Hirawi's status. As we are so engrossed in our own affairs, we have failed to notice that the political process seems to be doing so well in Lebanon. Al-Hirawi has gone on two rounds of talks in the Arab world, thereby winning an Arab seal of legitimacy. Moreover, Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf emirates have agreed to place large sums of money at his disposal to serve the double purpose of rehabilitating Lebanon and strengthening his own political standing within the Lebanese tangle.

Immediately after his new Cabinet's swearing-in ceremony, Shamir raised several proposals that were meant to bypass the Palestinian problem through participation in political-economic processes such as talks with Syria and understandings with Iraq. Yet it turns out that the "peripheral" political processes progress even without Israeli involvement; or rather, without its interference.

In the final analysis the suspension of the dialogue with the PLO contributed nothing to Israel. It affected the prestige of the United States, Israel's great friend, opened the door to European pressure, and rendered Israel's positions irrelevant in everything that has to do with broad Middle East processes.

Frayj Meets Arens, Discusses PLO Dialogue

TA2606174690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Report by Mark Weiss]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj said he was satisfied with today's meeting [with Defense Minister Arens].

[Begin Frayj recording] The atmosphere at the meeting was friendly, cordial, open, and serious. We told him as far as the peace process is concerned we fully support it. We support the dialogue proposed in Cairo, but there is one serious problem and that is that there are in the West Bank and Gaza no representatives who have the authority to negotiate on behalf of the people, and it is only the PLO that can do so. [end recording]

Mayor Frayj said today's meeting was of the highest importance, and he hoped it would lead to changes that will improve the situation and ease tension.

Academicians Hand UN Envoy Memo on Territories

JN2606213590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Jean-Claude Aime, adviser to the UN secretary general, is continuing his mission in Israel and the occupied territories. Today he received a delegation of Palestinian notables who handed him a memorandum on the situation in the territories. From there our correspondent Basim Abu-Sumayyah reports:

[Abu-Sumayyah] The Palestinian notables who met with Jean-Claude Aime, the personal envoy of the UN secretary general, in Jerusalem today, presented a 12-point memorandum asking the secretary general to officially declare the Palestinian intifadah a legitimate mass movement seeking freedom and independence, provide international protection for the occupied territories, contact the big powers and Security Council permanent members to form a preparatory committee for an international Middle East peace conference as an ideal way to resolve the Palestine question, dispatch a permanent UN mission to the occupied territories to monitor Israeli practices, and set up an international observation body to follow up on the policy of settling Jewish immigrants.

The Palestinian delegation, which consisted of five academicians, discussed with the UN envoy the Palestinians' suffering in the occupied territories and the pressing need to find a permanent solution to the Palestine question. They blamed the international community for its indifference to the Palestinian tragedy. The delegation also noted that by its recent decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO, the United States became the main obstacle to a peaceful settlement. Accordingly, the UN secretary general is required to hold the United States and Israel directly responsible for foiling the peace efforts.

For his part, Aime said his visit was not in response to an invitation from the Israeli Government, but came upon the official designation of the UN secretary general. He added that he was determined to meet with the Palestinians before meeting with Israeli officials.

Aime Meets Arens, Meridor; Discusses Territories

TA2606143390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] UN Assistant Secretary General Jean-Claude Aime conferred at noon today with Defense Minister Moshe Arens. Aime raised the question of the closed Arab universities. Minister Arens said that their reopening depends on the volume of violence.

Replying to Aime's question about the large number of casualties in the Gaza Strip following the bloody event in Rishon Leziyyon, the defense minister said they had been caused by provocation, and that the Israeli Army does all it can to reduce the number of casualties.

Aime discussed the human rights situation and law and order in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in a meeting with Justice Minister Dan Meridor. The justice minister explained to the guest that as long as violence continues it will be necessary to resort to numerous legal and administrative measures. He asked Aime to explain to the Palestinians he will meet that if violence were halted, negotiations could start on possible solutions of the problem.

Israeli, Palestinian Group To Meet PLO Members

JN2706083690 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0430 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] A group of Israeli and Palestinian figures left for Stockholm today to hold an academic meeting with several PLO members.

Our correspondent said this group includes Knesset Member Dedi Zucker [of the Citizens Rights Movement]; Avraham Tamir, former director general of the Foreign Ministry; Ari Rath, former chief editor of THE JERUSALEM POST; Professor Yohanan Peres; [Palestinians] Faysal al-Husayni, Sari Nusaybah, and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad. Nabil Sha'th, along with other PLO members, will represent the PLO.

The Israeli members of the group said this meeting, which will be held in the Swedish Uppsala University, does not conflict with the law which prohibits meetings with PLO members.

Der'i on Immigrant Settlement in Ramot, Gilo

TA2706073090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Telephone interview with Interior Minister Arye Der'i by Mikha Friedman—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Friedman] Minister Der'i, here is a question pertaining to the political realm. Where will the new apartments for immigrants be built? Will they be built within the boundaries of the Green Line, as well as in those Jerusalem areas not under our control? [sentence as heard]

[Der'i] Are you talking about the neighborhoods of Ramot and Gilo?

[Friedman] We are talking about Ramot and Gilo. The Americans do not like the idea that immigrants should be directed to those parts.

[Der'i] In my opinion, there is no question about it. As far as we are concerned, Jerusalem means unified Jerusalem. Ramot and Gilo have long since ceased to be outside the Green Line.

[Friedman] And that is why new apartments for immigrants will be built there.

[Der'i] I cannot conceive otherwise. I do not think the issue of Jerusalem is in question in any Israeli quarters. The Americans and the world at large should know that, as far as we are concerned, Jerusalem means unified Jerusalem, both East and West Jerusalem.

I do not conceive of building inside the Jewish Quarter in East Jerusalem; I hear the Soviets are concerned about that. But can anybody conceive of the possibility that immigrants should not settle in the western part of the city, or in Ramot and Gilo?

[Friedman] Minister Der'i, thank you very much.

Joint Plan on Immigration Absorption Approved

TA2706091690 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 27 Jun 90

[Communicated by the Jewish Agency spokesman]

[Excerpts] The joint Jewish Agency and government coordinating committee on immigration and absorption today met at the Prime Minister's Office and approved an annual budget of $2.3 billion for absorbing 150,000 new immigrants per year over the coming three years.

The plan includes the construction of 45,000 new apartments this year, in addition to the 6,000 apartments currently under construction and 4,000 apartments being renovated. The new program allocates $400 million for construction and $1 billion for underwriting apartments from building contractors. In addition, $150 million will be set aside for bringing new immigrants and their belongings to Israel, and $500 million will be earmarked for direct absorption (apartment rental fees for new arrivals).

It has to be agreed what percentage of the direct absorption budget will be provided by the Jewish Agency. [passage omitted]

Ariel Sharon, Minister of Housing and Construction, said that as from this coming December there will be a need for 7,000 new apartments each month. He announced that his ministry would purchase 40,000 prefabricated housing units in addition to the 3,000 already ordered. [passage omitted]

German Parliamentarians Begin Three-Day Visit

Welcomed by Knesset Members

LD2506194490 Hamburg DPA in German 1518 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Jerusalem (DPA)—The presidents of the West German Bundestag and the GDR People's Chamber, Rita Susessmuth and Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, started their visit to Jerusalem, already described as "historic", by laying wreaths at the memorial to the Unknown Soldier outside the Knesset. The politicians, at the joint wish of whom the three-day visit to Jerusalem has been instigated, made it clear during the initial talks with parliamentarians of the host country that the Jewish state has nothing to fear from a united Germany.

Suessmuth emphasized at a banquet this evening: As parliamentarians we intend to do everything in our power to smooth the way to understanding and thereby to fulfill our historic commitment and to serve the interests of our friendship with Israel. [passage omitted]

The official greeting was undertaken by the deputy president of the Knesset, since the Israeli parliamentary president Dov Shilansky has stepped down in view of the all-German visit. Shilansky, whose family was murdered by the Nazis, is not prepared to receive the two German parliamentary presidents in an official capacity, but wants to meet them privately tomorrow.

Shilansky's deputy, Tikhon, spoke in his welcoming address of the "deep symbolism" of the visit. The deputy Weiss reminded the guests of the united Germany's "continuing responsiblity" for Israel. Weiss urged: We hope that the two Germanys will do everything in their power to ensure that nothing is forgotten!. He said that the reunification "stirs in our hearts a feeling of fear."

The official welcome of the two parliamentary presidents in the Knesset, which followed, was a rather sobering event. Only 22 people's representatives were in the 120-delegate chamber as Tikhon officially greeted Suessmuth and Bergmann-Pohl. Only Prime Minster Yitzhak Shamir and finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i were on the government bench to welcome the guests. [passage omitted]

Seeking To Allay Concerns

TA2506180490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Rita Suessmuth, the president of the West German Bundestag, said that her visit to Israel prior to the unification of Germany was aimed at allaying fears about a change in united Germany's attitude toward Israel. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that Mrs. Suessmuth, who is visiting Israel together with Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, her counterpart from the GDR People's Chamber, stressed that relations with Israel would be strengthened, and united Germany would not reduce in

any way its commitment to Israel. The two speakers were received in an official ceremony in the Knesset this afternoon.

Comment on Future German Policy

LD2606154190 Hamburg DPA in German 1418 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Jerusalem (DPA)—On the second day of their joint visit to Jerusalem the presidents of the Bundestag and the People's Chamber have affirmed that Germany has a responsibility toward the Jewish state. During a reception given for the German-German delegation by State President Hayim Herzog, People's Chamber President Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, said: The new Germany will be committed to justice for everyone, solidarity with the weak, and peace with its neighbors and all other peoples. Bundestag President Rita Suessmuth stressed that Israel should know "that also in this situation it is not on the outside."

On the second day of the joint visit the emphasis was on the national-socialist past of the two German states. It also dominated the two politicians' talks in the afternoon with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levi. In the morning the German-German delegation visited the Holocaust memorial Yad Vashem, which made a deep impression above all on Mrs. Bergmann-Pohl. She was in tears when she promised that "also in a united Germany" she would use all her strength so "that such an injustice will never happen again." [passage omitted]

The three-day visit will end on Wednesday with a meeting with the Mayor of Jerusalem Teddy Kollek and a visit to the old town of Jerusalem.

Meet With Herzog, Shamir

TA2606173690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Sabine Bergmann-Pohl and Rita Suessmuth, presidents of the GDR and FRG parliaments, called on President Hayim Herzog at the presidential residence in Jerusalem this afternoon. They promised Mr. Herzog that unified Germany will abide by all its pledges and commitments toward Israel.

The two guests later conferred with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who told them that their visit was a special gesture toward Israel. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr. Shamir pointed out that until not long ago East Germany had snubbed Israel, but recently it has been showing willingness to have an understanding relationship.

Ministry Rejects EC Criticism on Human Rights

TA2706044290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Israel has rejected criticism by the EC of the human rights situation in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem said the criticism was not balanced, and there had been no open call to Palestinians to refrain from major violence. The spokesman also said that Israel would continue to do everything possible to ensure peace and security in the territories. At the same time, he said, Israel welcomed any extension of international aid to ease the situation of refugees in the territories as spelled out in the peace program endorsed by the Israel Government last year.

South African Economic Delegation Holds Visit

TA2706094490 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Jun 90 p A2

[Report by Yitzhaq Dish]

[Text] A South African economic delegation visited Israel last week to discuss the ebb in bilateral trade, but until yesterday no official communique had been released on the visit.

MA'ARIV has learned that the discussions were held in the framework of the Israeli-South African bilateral committee. The 10-member committee included representatives of various ministries, and was headed by Gearhard Croeser, secretary general of South Africa's Treasury. The Israeli side was represented by officials from the Finance, Foreign Affairs, Industry and Trade, and Agriculture Ministries and was headed by Ya'aqov Lifshitz, director general of the Finance Ministry.

The sharp decline in the volume of trade over the last few years was raised in the discussions. Israel's exports to South Africa declined by several dozen percent over the past year. The debates yielded no agreement on increasing trade, and it was decided to conduct further clarifications.

Government sources told MA'ARIV that the deliberations were conducted within the framework of the government's decision of September 1987 whereby it will maintain the same line adopted by the EC countries in terms of the scope of relations with South Africa.

Levi Offers Aid to Iran for 'Humanitarian Reasons'

TA2206144890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Israel is prepared to extend assistance to the victims of the earthquake in northern Iran. Our correspondent David Essing reports that Foreign Minister David Levi, who is recovering from an illness at Ha'emeq Hospital in 'Afula, expressed the sorrow of the Israeli people over the serious natural disaster that has struck Iran. He announced that Israel, out of purely humanitarian reasons, is prepared to put its experience in the fields of medicine and rescue operations at the disposal of the victims. The Foreign Ministry has relayed Minister Levi's announcement to the International Red Cross.

Betzelem on Abuse of Jailed Palestinian Teens

TA2606130190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jun 90 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Palestinian teenagers interrogated by policemen and Shin Bet (General Security Service) agents at Jerusalem police lockups are routinely beaten up, bound to a pipe in awkward positions, and held for hours in tiny punishment cells where they cannot move, according to a report to be issued today by the Israel human rights group, Betzelem.

The report, "Violence Against Minors in Police Detention," reviews conditions in the lockups at the Russian Compound and the "Qishle" station in the Old City. The survey cites affidavits collected by lawyers working on behalf of Betzelem, findings of a visit to the Russian Compound by Israel representatives of Defence for Children International, and testimony collected by the Detained Minor Aid Society.

Betzelem has submitted a complaint to the police inspector-general, along with the affidavits it has collected. The findings were also communicated in meetings with senior police officers.

"Almost every minor we interviewed testified that he had been beaten, usually severely—slaps, punches, kicks, hair-pulling, blows with clubs and iron bars—and pushed to the wall and to the floor," says the report.

Teenagers testified that they had been covered with large sacks and beaten, sometimes by several people. Others reported that their manacled hands were bound behind them to a pipe in an open courtyard, where they were left in awkward positions for hours in the sun and rain, and during the night.

Other young prisoners reported being held for days in a dark and smelly isolation cell measuring 1.5 x 1.5 sq.m., and containing a toilet seat.

Some said they were held for hours in what they dubbed "the closet," a very narrow cell one metre long, in which the inmate can only stand but cannot move. Other testimony described the "grave," a sunken box-like cell covered by an iron door, in which handcuffed inmates can only sit bent over. The cell is soiled and stench-filled, since prisoners are not allowed out to the bathroom.

Minors under interrogation are often threatened with demolition of their homes or expulsion and arrest of relatives if they do not confess, according to testimonies in the report. Many are interrogated for long hours during the night, and made to sign written confessions in Hebrew which they do not understand.

Teenagers held at the Russian Compound sleep in overcrowded conditions, the report says. A visit to the lockup in March by Defence for Children International representatives found 39 youths in a cell containing 12 beds. Prisoners were compelled to sleep on mattresses on the floor, or two to a bed. The cell was stifling, and only a blanket separated a toilet from the rest of the room. There were days, according to a Defence for Children International report, when prisoners were only allowed out of the cell for half an hour.

The police are slow to investigate complaints of violence and to prosecute those responsible. This "entrenches the norm of police violence and creates total lack of faith in the system among the detainees and their families," says the report.

Most detained minors prefer not to file complaints because they fear they will suffer as a result, and because they do not trust that the complaints will be investigated, according to the report. It cites four cases in which complaints were lodged last year, without any investigation results having been received to date.

Betzelem recommends that the police and the attorney-general supervise interrogations at the police lockups, and carry out spot checks of such interrogations.

"The senior echelon of the police must take responsibility for the methods of interrogation and conditions of incarceration, including those in the Shin Bet section," the report recommends.

"A senior officer should be appointed to be directly responsible for all matters concerning detention of minors...Rigorous standards should be set for interrogating minors.

"Investigation of alleged offences committed by policemen should be carried out by an external and independent body, and concluded in a reasonable amount of time."

A written police response to be published with the Betzelem report says that six complaints of violence cited in the report are under investigation. The files on two other cases have been submitted to the State Attorney's office for a decision on whether to prosecute the policemen involved.

"The police take an especially serious view of complaints about violence by policemen," the response said. "Complaints about violence during interrogation and in detention are investigated by a special national unit. Every complaint that reached the police was investigated..."

The Betzelem report says that a police spokeswoman denied the existence of the "closet," the "grave," the small isolation cell and the pipe to which prisoners are bound, apparently because these are found in the Shin Bet interrogation section.

The police response concedes that there is overcrowding in the youth section of the Russian Compound, but attributes this to "the large increase in the number of detainees as compared with previous years, which has burdened the police lockups and Prisons Service.

"The lockup is visited regularly by the Red Cross, members of Knesset, representatives of the State Attorney's office and social workers. Aside from the overcrowding, visitors commend the condition of incarceration. The police have taken measures to improve the condition of detention...and as a result there have been no suicides or attempted suicides among detained minors..."

Arens Plans To Release Detainees 'Next Week'

TA2606112690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says a number of Palestinian detainees will be released next week and another campus of the Arab University of Jerusalem will be reopened shortly. The announcement came during a meeting of the defense minister this morning with mayors of Bethlehem, Bayt Jala, and Bayt Sahur. Just back from Bethlehem is reporter Mark Weiss:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] Minister Arens told the three mayors and the members of the Bethlehem Council that an unspecified number of Palestinian detainees would be released next week to coincide with the Muslim festival of 'Id al-Adha. He also promised that the Abu-Dis campus of the Arab University of Jerusalem would be reopened in the near future and that there are plans to reopen more universities as long as there is no violence by the students who resume studies. The minister said this morning's visit was part of his effort to get to know security problems firsthand.

[Arens] I think it was an important meeting. We talked about things that are of concern to all of us, especially the suffering of the population these past 30 months during the period of the intifadah, and what needs to be done by all, by them and by us, in order to reduce the level of violence and restore tranquillity to the area. They told me about their desire to see peace come to the area and an accommodation reached between Jews and Arabs.

I think that, unlike maybe some people who don't live in the area, they do have a good understanding of the realities of the area. Aside from their grievances and aspirations, I think they have some understanding for the rights of Israel and the concerns of Israelis.

[Weiss] The minister refused to say if he supports restricting the entry of Arabs from the territories into Israel in the light of the recent bombings in Jerusalem. After meeting the mayors, the minister visited the nearby Jewish settlement of Betar. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 26 June carries a similar report. Asked by correspondent Arye Gus whether the question of Palestinian representation had been raised in his recent visit to Gaza and with the mayor of Bethlehem today, Arens replied: "The population has its official positions, but I hear that it is unanimous in its acceptance of the government's policy and the Israeli Government's peace initiative to hold elections and negotiate with the elected representatives." Gus goes on to report that Arens said "there is no room for new proposals on the part of Israel. We have a policy, the government has an important and far-reaching initiative, and there is no need to replace it."

[Referring to the government's security policy, Arens "rejected the arguments against the establishment of a civil guard in settlements in Judaea and Samaria and against the paving of bypass routes. He chose not to address himself to the issue of Soviet Jews and the territories."

[Reacting to King Husayn's remarks about tension, Arens said: "I need not and cannot hold negotiations with King Husayn through the media. We will gladly meet with him. If he is worried, and his worries are genuine, I think he would be well advised to meet us and talk to us."]

National Bloc Statement Criticizes Government

JN2606060290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jun 90 pp 1,3

["Text" of statement issued by the National Bloc in Parliament on 25 June]

[Text] The national bloc realises the dangers and threats that Jordan faces, which are real and imminent. The bloc realises that the enemy (Israel) aims to destabilise Jordan's national security by all means.

We believe that the enemy is very serious in its attempts to create strategic, geographic and demographic changes in the region to enable it to settle hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants by ending Palestinian existence and expelling Palestinians (to the) East Bank. Evidence of this is plenty, including threats to Jordan made daily and the policy of new government of (Yitzhak) Shamir.

We believe that Jordan's internal security and stability requires that all citizens be aware of the dimensions of the conspiracy and (realise) that the enemy is preparing for military intervention by creating internal strife. This strife will only benefit the enemy.

The security of the internal front does not only require awareness but it is also based on a strong internal front, the best use of resources, efficient public administration and solutions to people's problems.

Thus the bloc recognises that it is its duty to evaluate the government's performance after two parliamentary sessions. Parliament had given confidence to the Cabinet based on its policy statement and not on its formation in accordance to the constitution. Parliament gave confidence to the government to enable it to fulfil its promises and solve national problems. That was the way to avoid confrontation between the executive and legislative branches.

Now, after two parliament sessions, we feel responsible to put to the people our opinion in the government.

1) In the context of economy, we see that the government has not come up with a clearly defined policy yet. It only settled for addressing certain problems. There are no programmes except the two letters of intent signed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In addition, unemployment is mounting and the problem is left to circumstances to solve it. Even the government's measures to stem foreign labour dissipated only a few days after its announcement. We have seen no progress towards establishing an employment and national development fund and no organised lobbying for securing employment for Jordanians abroad.

2) In the area of supply, the government has reneged on its pledge in Parliament not to lift subsidies without consultation with the legislature. This can be seen in the floating of the prices of meat, milk and the rise in the cost of spare parts and fodder.

3) In the field of agriculture and water, we still lack a clear and comprehensive policy that deals with cost, production, marketing, processing or investment. We find that the rescheduling of farmer's debts is the greatest obstacle in this field. The problem still needs a radical solution that provides for rescheduling farmers' debts with a reasonable grace period. Creditors are on the heels of farmers and the committee entrusted with finding solutions has not yet produced any results. We see that the cost of all agricultural necessities, including marketing, are on the rise. We see no effort that would break the monopoly of traders in spite of Parliamentary decisions. We see the price of irrigation water a real burden on agriculture.

In the field of livestock breeding and bee keeping we see policy contradictions between imports and the rise in fodder cost.

We still see no solution to the problems of land and property in the south and east. We see ineligible people seizing government land while the inhabitants of the Jordan valley and other villages are denied ownership of the land they till.

The government has also not taken any step to solve the problems of shared ownership as agreed with Parliament.

4) In municipal and rural affairs we see no move towards institutionalising municipal affairs. We see only individual attempts following old styles.

5) We have seen the government take one decision following the other in the field of health without preparing for a clear institutional alternative based on a clear and comprehensive policy and fair distribution of health services.

6) We still see no clear national policy for the youth. We still lack a policy that would set free the young people's potentials. We think that in this field a policy should be formulated to put this subject in its national and social security pespective, especially in these trying times.

7) In the field of public administration, we see no move towards realising the government's promise to reform and modernise it. Even Parliament recommendations for the abolishment or merger of certain institutions were not implemented. We see no inclination on behalf of the government towards decentralisation. Until this late time in the year the government's list of vacant posts is not released.

8) On the level of abuse of public funds (corruption) we see the government opting for negative neutrality which may abort all public demands for justice.

9) This bloc had given the government confidence, like all other blocs did. The hoped-for success of our Parliamentary experiment and to base it on reason and balance were behind our vote of confidence in the government. It was a vote of confidence in the government's policy statement and not necessarily in the cabinet members.

In our previous statements we announced, individually and collectively, that the new cabinet crew, should be chosen with great care in harmony with the new era. We repeat that the government's policy statement is good but believe its formation requires rectification. This is something the prime minister understands. Whether or not he agrees with us, he seems not to give our opinion such weight.

That is why we believe the cabinet reshuffle was contrary to our opinion and to public opinion.

Al-Nasur Comments

JN2606080890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jun 90 pp 1,5

[Report by 'Abdallah Hasanat, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Amman—The National Bloc in the Lower House of Parliament Monday criticised the performance of the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran for failing to address the country's economic and social problems and called for the formation of a "national unity government."

The bloc's spokesman, al-Salt Deputy 'Abdallah al-Nasur, told a press conference that the new era through which Jordan is passing "requires a national government that includes all political trends." He read out a statement detailing the bloc's view of what it sees as shortcomings on the part of the government.

A senior government official declined comment on the political implications of the bloc's statement, saying that such comment should come only after the statement was fully studied by the prime minister and cabinet. However, he said, it appears that the bloc's criticism was mainly directed at the government's economic policy and that the cabinet economic team would in time reply to the bloc's viewpoints on these issues.

The statement of the bloc read by al-Nasur, head of the Financial Committee of the House, listed eight points outlining the bloc's "opinion on the government's performance." [passage omitted]

Al-Nasur said the bloc was not asking the government to resign nor was it asking for a reshuffle. "We only want the government to carry out its programme as contained in its policy statement upon which we gave it our confidence."

Al-Nasur, who claimed the bloc has a membership of 22 deputies including "some" ministers, hinted that his bloc may call for a new vote of confidence in the government.

"This is only a signal," he said of the bloc's statement. "It is in fact the second signal," he said. "We believe that there is a need for a whole new crew (cabinet) that has the people's confidence." "There are many qualified people who have very good reputations" to fill the cabinet posts, he said.

Al-Nasur, a former minister of planning, said that the bloc was not happy with the limited reshuffle of the cabinet two weeks ago. He said that the reshuffle was "weak" and only "misplaced" ministers and that the National Bloc had not asked for the reshuffle.

Al-Nasur said that the statement he read was formulated by the bloc's members excluding cabinet members. Informed sources say that Minister of tourism 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Affairs 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi are both members of the bloc. They could not be reached for comment.

Al-Nasur described the bloc as centrist between the Islamists on the right and leftists. He described the members as "men of Jordan, the state and the regime, who want to preserve the constitution and work within its framework."

Deputy 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat spokesman of the 22-member Muslim Brotherhood in the House, said his group did not necessarily agree with all the points raised by the National Bloc since its programmes were drawn up much before the government of Mudar Badran was formed. "Our bloc is distinguished for its reform-oriented programmes with defined goals in parliamentary work, in drawing up projects and in reacting to different situations in Parliament," 'Arabiyat told Jordan Television.

He said his bloc, which has announced its programme and objectives on numerous occasions before and after the vote of confidence in the Badran government, "believes in respecting differing viewpoints and reform programmes."

Democratic Bloc Deputy Bassam Haddadin said members of his group had adopted a unified position vis-a-vis several issues discussed in the House, implying that the 12-member bloc did not always have a common position among its members on any given issue. Haddadin conceded that the bloc was not very well organised and that efforts were continuing to "reorganise and reactivate it." He said the bloc's members were scheduled to hold a meeting next week in a bid to arrive at a joint platform.

Deputy Muhammad al-'Alawinah, spokesman for the Independent Bloc in the House, said the basic motivation behind the formation of his group was to save time in proceedings in Parliament.

Statistics Given on Unemployed, Foreign Workers

JN2606121590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jun 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—An estimated 150,000 nonjordanians are currently employed in the Kingdom and they are doing jobs which are either shunned by Jordanians or

nonjordanian workers can carry out, according to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

At the same time an estimated 300,000 Jordanians, or 40 per cent of the workforce representing the highest yield of investment [as published] in the Kingdom are currently employed in Arab Gulf states, Prince Hasan said in a speech delivered on his behalf by Dr Tahir Kana'an, director general of the Industrial Development Bank (IDB).

The increase of unemployment rates in the Kingdom, he said, is the main source of concern for the country because it constitutes a serious danger to the fabric of the society.

One cannot rely solely on theories and economic analysis in dealing with unemployment, but rather practical steps should be taken and studies of other countries' methods in handling such problems should be carefully studied, Prince Hasan said in his speech delivered at the opening session of a regional seminar on employment strategies in the Arab World.

The seminar, organised by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the World Bank, is attended by delegates from these two institutions, the Arab Monetary Fund, the International Monetary Fund, the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Arab Labour Organisation, the International Labour Organisation, the European Community and institutions from the private and public sectors in Jordan.

Referring to Jordan, Prince Hasan said that the Kingdom has been at the same time an exporter and an importer of workers. In the past, he added, this was considered a healthy symptom because there used to be flexibility and stability in the demand and supply process, unlike the present when the country is facing a problem of unemployment.

The deputy director of the World Bank addressed the session pointing out that the bank aims at helping the countries of the Middle East and the Mediterranean region to build up their economic strength and attain good rates of development in the present stage and after 1992 when Europe becomes united.

The World Bank views unemployment as a problem with serious impact, adversely affecting national economies and retarding social development.

He called on governments facing unemployment to adopt practical policies that take into account economic adjustments and reform.

Arabs React to Suspension of PLO Dialogue

JN2406205590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Jun 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Political Vacuum Is a Futile Attempt"]

[Text] Arab official, popular, and press reactions to U.S. President Bush's decision to suspend the dialogue between the United States and the PLO have collectively reflected an Arab consensus against the decision and its negative effect on the future of the peace process in the Middle East. They reflect the view that the decision will push the region to the brink of collision, confrontation, and extremism.

At a time when the Arabs are committed to a policy of moderation and are depending on a more rational and even-handed U.S. role based on the U.S. Administration's public commitment to continue efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, this decision has dispelled many hopes attached to this dialogue, although Washington constantly deprived the dialogue of its substance and usefulness.

Arab political circles have seen the suspension of the U.S.-PLO dialogue as a U.S. response to the Baghdad Arab summit resolutions and a blatant declaration of its adoption of Israel's disruptive position, which has destroyed all peace prospects and initiatives. So, there is no more doubt about the true U.S. intentions and the contradiction in U.S. policy with regard to the Arab-Zionist conflict.

Therefore, the Arab League Foreign Ministers' emergency meeting called by the PLO, which will be held on Wednesday, 27 June, stems from the spirit of Arab consensus to confront the changing U.S. policy and to respond to the U.S. decision with an Arab position capable of forcing the United States not only to reconsider its decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO but also to give this dialogue a practical and effective chance to establish peace.

Because the United States clearly realizes that it is impossible to hold an Israel-Palestinian dialogue without PLO approval—as U.S. Secretary of State Baker said himself the day before yesterday—then it must definitely realize that suspending its dialogue with the PLO cannot nullify the PLO's legitimate representation of the Palestinian people. Israel and the United States will find no Palestinian or Arab ready to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians other than the PLO.

If the United States wants to test the ability and efficacy of the Arab summit resolutions and the ability of the Arabs and the Palestinians to face the political vacuum that was created by the U.S. decision, then we say that the Arab response will depend on what the Arab foreign ministers will achieve in their upcoming meeting. The political vacuum on which Israel is betting in order to force Palestinian surrender and to resume the game of war in the region to achieve its expansionist aims is a dangerous game. The results of such outmoded policies will never benefit the aggressors or their supporters.

'Awn Accepts Al-Hirawi in Settlement Framework

NC2606125790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Michel 'Awn has expressed his conviction that the situation in Lebanon will steadily improve. In a statement to REUTER, he said that there will be no retreat from improvement from now on. He said that he accepts President al-Hirawi within the framework of a settlement. He said: Let him be [a president] when a settlement to save Lebanon is reached. As he put it: Until this settlement is reached, I am the legitimacy.

In another statement, 'Awn said that he still maintains his stand on all regional and international efforts related to Lebanon. He claimed that his goal is to achieve Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, and secure a society of justice and a state ruled by law.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA', 'Awn called on the tripartite Arab committee members to come to Lebanon, particularly to B'abda, because the security situation permits this, he said.

President Al-Hirawi Interviewed

PM2706090690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jun 90 p 6

[Interview with President Ilyas al-Hirawi by Ghassan Shirbil; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shirbil] It was reported recently that certain circles advised you to work for a settlement to resolve the problem posed by General Michel 'Awn. What are the features of that settlement; does it include his inclusion in the government and, if so, how?

[Al-Hirawi] The internal settlement is part of the national will. And the Lebanese authorities do not need advice from international or other circles to continue its efforts to end the hemorrhage caused by Gen. Michel 'Awn's slogans and his pointless and destructive war. Nevertheless, we welcome and appreciate the efforts made by friendly states in that regard.

As for resolving the Gen. 'Awn problem, we repeat that this requires that he show enough moral courage to admit that the only way to a solution in Lebanon is the national accord document endorsed by the people's representatives in al-Ta'if. From that document there emerged the authorities which received immediate Arab and international recognition. 'Awn's investment in undermining that document by military force has led only to the destruction of that which was sound, after the so-called liberation war in which he engaged nearly a year ago; and not a single letter of the al-Ta'if agreement has changed.

Lebanon is proud of, and committed to, its democratic system. All groups are allowed to express their opposition and convictions—but by political means, not through force of arms or repression. And if it is necessary to show Gen. 'Awn the road to a solution, we tell him: Accept the agreed solution or express your opposition by peaceful political means.

But continuing to fuel internal conflicts and turning one section of the national Army into militias fighting for nonnationalist aims and destroying—through their conflict with the "Lebanese Forces"—large residential, industrial, and commercial areas, will keep 'Awn away from a solution. In fact, the people will abandon him and history will label him the ideal tool for implementing the conspiracy designed to evacuate the Lebanese people to all the world's states, without any hope of returning.

[Shirbil] There has been much talk over the past few days about expanding the government. What truth is there in these reports? And why has Lebanese Forces leader Dr. Samir Ja'ja' not been included, despite his recognition of the authorities and the al-Ta'if agreement?

[Al-Hirawi] The government's expansion is, of course, linked to internal changes. And we may also form a new government in view of the conditions.

But now that the cabinet has been completed by the inclusion of Ministers George Sa'adah and Michel Sasin, it is now better able to tackle the sensitive period that the country is experiencing. It also reflects better representation of the various Lebanese groups. As for Dr. Samir Ja'ja' being included in the present government by virtue of his recognition of the national accord document, actual conditions require that we point out that Ja'ja' did not set his inclusion in the government as a condition for his recognition of al-Ta'if.

Once again we call on all the groups that have reservations about that document to realize the danger of denying Lebanon the opportunity to achieve internal peace. This peace can be achieved through the endorsement of the political reforms that ensure justice and equality for all. By providing the opportunity to build an intrinsically Lebanese force to extend the state's authority over Lebanese territory as a whole, it enables us to apply UN Security Council Resolution 425 stipulating Israel's withdrawal from Southern Lebanon.

The opportunity to achieve the ultimate solution is available now, and we must seize it so that we will not lose the homeland for the sake of a comma in any agreement. I do not see why we should become involved in a labyrinth of amendments when their price would exceed all we can gain on paper, in terms of deaths, destruction, and evacuation. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] The authorities cannot, for many reasons, endure the present situation in the eastern area for long. What are the practical steps for resolving this situation?

[Al-Hirawi] In my view, the situation in the eastern area is moving toward the inevitable solution—namely, a rallying under the authorities' banner. The numerous initiatives that Lebanon has experienced for some time now—such as the Vatican initiative and the frequent

visits by friendly envoys such as French envoy Francois Scheer—are all part of the efforts to join the national accord march in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement and to enable the authorities to lead all areas to safety and the building process.

Besides, the Lebanese people in that area are appealing to the authorities to rescue them from their present situation.

[Shirbil] It has been noted that the prime minister attends all your meetings during your tours. Does that mean that we are experiencing a two-leader regime?

[Al-Hirawi] No. The prime minister's attendance of all the talks is evidence that the Lebanese authorities speak one language and are not divided, as was the case at one point in the past. Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and I are working to convince everyone that our aim is the same, our analysis of problems is the same, and our view of the solutions is the same. All matters raised are decided by the Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] You asked Egypt to make efforts to facilitate the implementation of Resolution 425 in Southern Lebanon. It is known that Israel is demanding certain arrangements and commitments for that withdrawal. Is the Lebanese regime ready to make such commitments?

[Al-Hirawi] The situation in Southern Lebanon requires that we work speedily to prepare our own forces—the Army and the security forces—so they can extend the state's authority over this beloved part of Lebanese territory. UN Security Council Resolution 425 states that the Israeli Army must withdraw from Lebanese territory and that the Lebanese authorities, with help from the international emergency forces present in the South, must provide security for that area, so as to return to our commitment to the clauses of the truce with Israel, thus denying it any pretext for continuing its occupation of the South. As for the talk about arrangements and commitments, it is far from reality, because the Lebanese Army's presence in the South is the real guarantee of the return of security to that area, and Resolution 425 must be implemented.

[Shirbil] There have recently been Palestinian calls to organize the Palestinian presence in Lebanon through a new agreement with the Lebanese authorities. What is your position?

[Al-Hirawi] The Palestinian presence in Lebanon is subject to Lebanese law. There is now no scope for concluding new agreements. Because the Palestinians live safely in any Arab state without concluding any agreements, Lebanon shoulders the responsibility for ensuring Palestinian civilians' free presence on its territory. The Palestinians enjoy the same rights and have the same duties, just like any Lebanese or Arab citizen on any Arab territory.

[Shirbil] Some quarters have said that your recent tour of Egypt, Libya, and Tunis failed to secure arms for the Lebanese Army. What truth is there in this?

[Al-Hirawi] During our recent tour we had to deal with certain preconceptions about the Army's weaponry. This is because Gen. 'Awn's rebellion gave the Arab brothers the mistaken impression that the Army would be unable to unite its ranks or extricate itself from the dangerous dilemma that one section of the Army is experiencing today. During our talks in Egypt, Libya, and Tunis we presented our viewpoint, which says that the Army under General Emile Lahud would direct its attention to a fundamental aim—that is, to return officers and troops to their first national role—defending the country and recovering the South by the implementation of Resolution 425 and extending the state's authority over its territory as a whole.

As for Gen. 'Awn, he is the best proof of the futility of an attempt by any officer to seize power or to rebel against the authorities in the future. This is because he has failed even to defeat the militias, and through his slogans he has achieved nothing for the country except destruction. [passage omitted]

No 'Political Implications' in Aid to Iran

NC2706080890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah organized a mourning gathering in Imam al-Rida Mosque in Bi'r al-'Abd at 1700 yesterday to commemorate the departed souls of the victims of the earthquake that struck northwestern Iran. A number of ulema attended, including His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah secretary general; Brother Zamanian, Iranian charge d'affaires; and a delegation from the Jabal 'Amil Ulema grouping. [passage omitted]

On the question of the aid that is being extended by arrogant as well as oppressed nations to the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Fadlallah said it is natural to give aid because this is a custom that the world has adopted. He pointed out that it is natural for Islamic Iran to receive this aid because the tragedy is greater than its capabilities. He added that there are injured people who are dying and others who are buried under the rubble. He said that the Iranian leadership's position of legitimate authority requires it to accept this aid in order to heal the wounds, but this tragedy will not impose any need on the leaders to be divided in their stands.

His eminence noted that Ayatollah Khamene'i's wise leadership is determined not to let Islamic Iran submit to global arrogance under any circumstances. He added: We are confident that the march will continue as it should. This aid will not have any political implications. The enlightened Islamic political leaders will not allow any psychological effects to influence the nation's decision and destiny.

His eminence recalled the downing of the Iranian airliner and said: We must remember U.S. brutality to every child, old man, and woman killed on that plane. We must also remember that all tragedies and earthquakes, whether natural, political, or economic, will not prevent us from standing more firmly on our feet.

Exchange of Fire Continues in East Beirut

NC2606061190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] 'Awn's gunmen are maintaining a state of tension along the combat lines. Intermittent machine-gun and rocket fire is reported along a number of East Beirut lines. The target of fire is the Lebanese Forces positions and adjacent residential areas in Nahr al-Mawt and Sinn al-Fil.

The attacks started at 1945 last night and continued until midnight. Machine-gun and rocket fire and mortar shells were directed at residential areas and the Lebanese Forces positions along the combat lines in Sinn al-Fil, al-Salumi, al-Ashrafiyah, and Nahr al-Mawt in Beirut, as well as the J'ita area in Kasrawan. Flares were fired in that area.

Amal-Hizballah Fighting Erupts in West Beirut

NC2606111390 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Clashes using various types of weapons have been going on since 1300 between Amal and Hizballah gunmen along the airport road and its vicinity. Syrian troops are trying to contain the situation. According to civil defense sources, at least three people were injured by the fighting.

A source in the Amal Movement reported a short while ago that the al-Shiyah area came under shelling and sniper fire earlier from the al-Ghubayrah area, causing violent fighting to erupt. A statement issued by Amal stated that Amal members foiled an advance attempt from the al-Ghubayrah area toward the Rawdat al-Shahidayn area. Acute tension still reigns in the al-Musharrafiyah and Rawdat al-Shahidayn areas as a result. The statement said five persons were injured.

In another development, a statement issued by the Amal Movement today accused Hizballah of detontating a booby-trapped car along al-Nabatiyah-Zawtar road last night. Amal official 'Ali Huraybi was killed and three others injured in the explosion.

Syrian Forces Halt Amal-Hizballah Fighting

NC2606133090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Following a contact with an Amal security source, we were informed that the Syrian Arab forces have succeeded in halting the clashes that erupted between the Amal Movement and Hizballah on the airport road. The Syrian forces are currently deploying in the area of the fighting in order to normalize the situation.

Israeli Planes Break Sound Barrier Over Beirut

NC2706110290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1045 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over Beirut at 1130 today while flying reconnaissance sorties.

Press Urges Thwarting 'U.S.-Zionist Alliance'

JN2606084990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Press review]

[Text] In the "Behind the News" column, TISHRIN comments on the intifadah and the enemy government's schemes and says: The formation of a Shamir-led cabinet of war and aggression heralds a new phase of Zionist violence against Arabs. As a matter of fact, the figures making up the new Zionist government give one the impression that the neo-Nazis in the occupied territories have made up their minds and decided to confront the valiant intifadah using all ways and means. The reference here is to the intifadah which is being entrenched day in and day out. All forms of repression and tyranny have not managed to intimidate this intifadah, quite the opposite, they have bolstered the determination of our people in the occupied territories and strengthened their adherence to their right to liberate their lands and use all means and ways to achieve this objective.

TISHRIN adds: Stepping up repression has become an official Zionist policy reflecting endorsed decisions. Shamir and his clique are making noncommittal statements in the hope that this will weaken the international rage over hostile statements which threaten to deepen the isolation plaguing the Zionists at a time when the world is undergoing various changes, which the enemy might not be able to continue to exploit, as is the case right now.

The paper goes on to say: Within this context fall Shamir's and Levi's statements that they are not directing Soviet Jewish immigrants to settle in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in a desperate bid to alleviate the Soviet indignation which manifested itself clearly at the recent Soviet-U.S. summit.

After reviewing the implications of these statements which seek to obscure the facts concerning the drive for hostile expansion at the expense of Arab lands, the paper wonders: Will the Zionists manage to carry out their hostile scheme? Moreover, will the repressive measures halt the valiant intifadah?

The paper concludes by saying: The reply came in no time through the heroic operations carried out by our people in the occupied territories, operations which reflect the will of a people determined to liberate their lands and ready to sacrifice their blood to achieve this objective.

AL-BA'TH tackles the same issue and says: What is strange is that the United States has bolstered this hostile step represented by the formation of a Shamir-led government by a similar step the implications of which are unmistakably clear regarding its Middle East policy at both the Arab and Palestinian levels, as if it wants to imply to all parties that U.S. Middle East policy will continue to be hostage to Israeli whims under all circumstances and conditions, and that Washington opposes Arab endeavors whether Arabs pursue a just peace or choose to confront aggression. In light of this, we as Arabs need to think very carefully about this hostility, draw the proper conclusions, and prepare to bolster our position on all levels by displaying further solidarity and joint action. This would enable us to thwart the conspiracies being hatched by this strong U.S.-Zionist alliance. This is essential if we are to spare ourselves a catastrophe, which Syria warned of [words indistinct] of which all Arabs are aware and on which the hearts of all Arabs converge.

Jerusalem Reports Remarks by Minister Talas

JN2606072790 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0430 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Syria has warned Israel of the consequences of launching an attack on Arab states. Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas said Israel will pay dearly if it launched such an attack. General Talas made this statement before Syrian Army forces at the end of their military maneuvers yesterday. The Syrian defense minister said Syria is exposed to dangers which threaten its existence and future. Therefore, the Syrian forces should be ready to face any attack.

Syria yesterday rejected Yitzhaq Shamir's call to President Hafiz al-Asad to hold peace talks.

Citizens No Longer Need Visas To Enter Egypt

JN2606193390 Damascus Television Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] As from the 25th of June 1990, citizens of the Syrian Arab Republic can enter the Arab Republic of Egypt without the need for a visa, exactly as Egyptians have always been permitted entry along with all the Arabs to Syria without a visa. The Egyptian Government's decision has been communicated to the Foreign Ministry of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Egyptian ambassador in Damascus, Mr. Mustafa Mursi, has told SANA that the Egyptian Government's decision reflects the brotherly ties between their two countries.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Sends Condolences on Earthquake

LD2206080590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jun 90

["Text" of message of condolences from President Najibullah to Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Dear esteemed brother: I have regrettably heard the sad and unfortunate news of the occurrance of an earthquake in the north-west regions of our brother and neighbor country, the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has caused losses of life and financial damage. On this occasion, I present the deepest sorrow of the state and people of the Republic of Afghanistan and myself to you, dear brother, and through you to the Muslim and fraternal people of Iran and those sisters and brothers who have lost their loved-ones and suffered in this tragedy.

The Muslim people of Afghanistan share the pain and sorrow of you, the Muslim brothers, and express their condolences. I wish from Almighty God tolerance for you, brother people of Iran and those families who have suffered as a result of this sad incident.

[Signed] With respect, Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Offers Condolences to Iran

LD2406173190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, this morning went to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul and conveyed his deepest sorrow and condolences on behalf of the people and state of Afghanistan and on his own behalf for the tragic incident of the recent earthquake in the north of that country, and signed a special book which had been opened in that embassy on the event.

According to another report, in order to convey condolences on the occassion of this painful incident, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, first vice president; 'Abdul Hamid Mohtat, vice president; Dr. Mahmud Habibi, chairman of the Senate of the National Assembly; administrative boards of the houses of the National Assembly; vice premiers; a number of members of the government; leaders of social organizations and high-ranking officials of the state; and a number of resident ambassadors and charges d'affaires of foreign countries in Kabul went to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul and signed their condolences and sympathy in the special book.

Reciprocally, the charge d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy in Kabul expressed gratitude for the sympathy and condolences of esteemed President Najibullah and other leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan.

'Extremist' Rocket Fire in Kabul Kills 1

LD2506175390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Extremists fired four surface-to-surface rockets at Kabul today which killed a resident of Kabul and wounded two others.

A source at the Kabul Garrison General Command told the military section of BAKHTAR that Armed Forces units mounted combat and clearing-up operations in the Paghman area to prevent terrorist acts by the extremists. As a result 35 extremists were crushed and a number of others were injured, and two enemy surface-to-surface Blowpipe rockets, 300 missiles, 100 Sakar-30 and Sakar-20 rockets, 200 shells for recoilless rifles, 260 shells for rocket launchers and 41 shells for BM [missiles] have been captured and a number of their hideouts and fortified trenches have been destroyed. Enjoying high combat morale Armed Forces units have cleared up of the presence of extremists in a section of (Gawshirdara) and (Pasha-e Dara) in Paghman, and the units are continuing to advance.

Resistance Said To Capture Qarah Bagh District

BK2306154890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have liberated the Qarah Bagh District of Kabul Province after a fierce battle. This is the second major district to be liberated by the mujahidin within a week. Earlier, they freed the (?Sultan) District of Balkh Province on 15 June. According to the MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN, the mujahidin captured 300 Kabul soldiers and a large quantity of arms and ammunition during this operation.

Rebels Seize 3 Posts, Kill 9 Kabul Militiamen

BK2406133390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have captured three security posts of the Kabul regime troops in Dahaneh-ye Ghowri District of Baghlan Province, killing nine militiamen and injuring 17 others. Two tanks were also destroyed and [words indistinct]. MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] said mujahidin also captured 20 militiamen and soldiers along with their arms.

18 Soldiers Killed in Rebel Attack in Ghazni

BK2606142090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan tell of continued heavy fighting between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces in different parts of the country. Mujahidin forces damaged four tanks and destroyed two military vehicles during an attack in Sarowbi, a district of Kabul. They also captured four officers of the Kabul regime. During attacks in

Ghazni Province, the mujahidin killed 18 officers and soldiers of the Kabul regime.

300 Resistance Commanders Holding Council

BK2706021090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1810 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Islamabad, June 26 (AFP)—Some 300 resistance commanders began a secret meeting inside Afghanistan to hammer out a unified military strategy, Western diplomats said here Tuesday [26 June].

The shura, or council of commanders, continuing talks somewhere in the eastern province of Paktia, is the biggest gathering of guerrilla chieftains in the 11-year history of the war in Afghanistan. Diplomats said it will last several days.

The meeting, which began Friday, is a follow-up to a gathering in early May when 40 top resistance leaders announced plans to set up a "national council of commanders." Its objective was to coordinate guerrilla activity inside the country.

Diplomats said the organisers were stressing military operations. The commanders have already planned a third shura which they claim would be larger than the previous two gatherings.

They said the 300 guerrilla chiefs attending the meeting represented all Afghan provinces.

Resistance sources said the shura brings together both Sunni and Shiite commanders and other ethnic groups operating in Afghanistan. It follows the merger of the nine Shiite parties into a united Hezb-e Wahdat (Unity Party) in Iran.

The Iran-based groups were unrepresented in the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) formed largely by the Pakistan-based Sunni parties in February 1989, shortly after the Soviet troops ended their occupation of Afghanistan.

The AIG, formed to overthrow the pro-Moscow regime in Kabul, has been able to make little headway. A radical fundamentalist group, the Hezb-e Eslami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, has already split from the AIG amid much internal discord.

Sources close to the shura said though AIG was under "foreign influence," the commanders did not want a confrontation with the Peshawar-based AIG.

The objective was to work alongside the AIG, which they said had no clear picture of the realities of the battlefield situation.

Najibullah, Others Elected Deputies for Congress

LD2306082190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0420 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Kabul, June 22, BAKHTAR—The participants of the party conferences of Jawzjan Province unanimously elected President Najibullah, in absentia, as their representative to the 2nd congress of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA]. The participants at the conference appreciated the all-sided endeavours and worthwile services rendered by President Najibullah for the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation and ensurance of peace in the country.

Similarly, some other members of the PDPA were elected as delegates to the 2nd congress of the party by the participants of the provincial party committee of Jawzjan Province.

The conferences of the party committees of the provinces of Farah, Qandahar, Helmand and Badakhshan were also elected on June 21 for the election of their deputies to the 2nd PDPA congress.

A number of PDPA members were also elected in these conferences for participation to the 2nd PDPA congress.

Najibullah Addresses Delegates

LD2506181590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee today met with the delegates of party organizations of the Armed Forces who have come to participate in the second congress of the PDPA. The meeting was held at the Storay Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Among those attending the meeting were Farid Ahmad Mazdak, member of Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; General Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of defense; General Gholam Daruq Yaqubi, Politburo member and minister of state security; and Raz Mohammad Paktin, minister of internal affairs.

Esteemed Najibullah, president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan made a comprehensive speech in which he spoke about the country's political, social, economic, cultural, and military situation and highlighted the role and importance of the second congress of the PDPA in the current political situation and the role of PDPA members in realizing the tasks of the party congress.

PDPA Extraordinary Plenum Approves Documents

LD2606185790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pahsto 1530 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] An extraordinary plenum of the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee was convened today under the chairmanship of Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA. Members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and members and candidate members of the Central Committee took part in the Plenum. After being discussed in a free and democratic

atmosphere, the Plenum unanimously approved the PDPA Central Committee documents to be presented to the second PDPA Congress.

Bangladesh

Official Previews Ershad Visit to China

BK2506161590 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] President Ershad goes to Beijing on Thursday [28 June] on a five-day state visit to China. He will be accompanied by Begum Raushan Ershad. The entourage will also include the president's advisers on primary education, Mansur Ali Sarkar, and NGO [nongovernment organizations] affairs, Michael Sushil Kumar Adhikari, and some secretaries.

Briefing newsmen in Dhaka today, Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan said the visit will further deepen the multifaceted relations between Bangladesh and China. Bangladesh attaches the highest importance and priority to its relations with China. The visit will provide another opportunity to continue the highest-level contacts and exchange of views. President Ershad will discuss bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common concern with Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, President Yang Shangkun, Prime Minister Li Peng, and the Communist Party secretary general, Jiang Zemin.

The foreign secretary said Bangladesh and China have developed intensive economic and commercial relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1976. The two countries are also working in close concert in the United Nations and other international forums to promote global peace.

Mr. Abul Ahsan said China is an important partner of Bangladesh's development activities. The two countries have agreements in various fields, including trade, air, shipping, science and technology, and flood control. The accord on science and technology will be renewed during the president's visit.

Our representative says the visit of President Ershad will be another milestone in the development of Sino-Bangladesh relations.

One Killed, Over 50 Injured in Student Clashes

BK2406083590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] In Bangladesh, at least one student was killed and over 50 others injured in a clash between two groups of students in Rajshahi University campus yesterday. The condition of one is stated to be serious. Meanwhile, police and paramilitary forces carried out joint searches and recovered a huge quantity of deadly weapons from different residential hostels.

Our Dhaka correspondent says normal life in Rajshahi Town remained disrupted since this morning following a general strike call given by rival student groups.

In another development, all opposition parties, including the Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, have given a call for a dawn-to-dusk hartal [general strike] throughout the country on Thursday next in protest against the present government.

India

Singh Leaves for Three-Day Visit to Maldives

BK2206095090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, left New Delhi for Male this afternoon on a three-day official visit to the Maldives. Speaking to newsmen at the airport before his departure, he said such a friendly visit to Pakistan would be possible when proper conditions prevailed.

Replying to the reaction of the Janata Dal leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, on industrial policy, the prime minister said full information about the policy has not reached him. He said the industry minister, Mr. Ajit Singh, will contact Mr. Chandra Shekhar, and give him details about the policy. He said there is no question of falling in a foreign debt situation. The prime minister said the National Front government stands for self-reliance. We have to remove rigidity in our system to have a balanced approach.

During his stay in Male, the prime minister will attend the silver jubilee celebrations of independence of that country.

Returns, Comments on Sri Lanka

BK2406144690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, returned to New Delhi this evening after a three-day official visit to the Maldives. Speaking to newsmen at the airport, he said both the countries have agreed to step up cooperation in various fields.

Replying to a question, the prime minister said India is concerned about the developments in Sri Lanka. He said India stands by the integrity and sovereignty of the island nation, but, at the same time, democratic aspirations of the people must be fulfilled. Mr. V.P. Singh said that India will not allow its soil to be used as a base by terrorists.

Further on Remarks

BK2406162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] The prime minister has categorically stated that India will not allow its soil to be used as a base by the Sri Lankan militants. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi this evening on his return from a three-day official visit

to Maldives, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh said India stands by the sovereignty and integrity of Sri Lanka, but, at the same time, it wants that the democratic aspirations of the people of the island nation should be protected. Expressing concern over the developments in northeastern Sri Lanka, the prime minister said India does not want any civilian casualties or unnecessary use of force. New Delhi, he said, has conveyed its views to Colombo and efforts are continuing through diplomatic channels to deal with the situation.

In his 20-minute-long airport press conference, the prime minister dwelt on a number of issues concerning the domestic and international scene. The prime minister expressed happiness over the outcome of his visit to Maldives and said both the countries have agreed to expand the cooperation in various fields. A memorandum of understanding will be signed shortly for training Maldivians in paramedical services and to depute Indian personnel for running hospitals.

Replying to a question, Mr. V.P. Singh refuted the Pakistani allegation of Indian involvement in the events in Sindh. The prime minister declared that India never interferes in the internal affairs of any country. He however regretted that the people who have migrated to the Sindh region are called Muhajirs even after living there for three generations. They also do not have any security. This naturally is a matter of concern as they have links with the people in India.

Replying to a question on Rama Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine in Ayodhya] issue, the prime minister said the government will continue its dialogue to find an amicable solution. He said talks will be held with various groups in the first week of every month.

Earlier, addressing a news conference at Male before departure for home, the prime minister said the only issue to be discussed in the proposed foreign secretary-level meeting between India and Pakistan is the issue of Pakistan's support to terrorists and secessionists in Punjab and Kashmir. Mr. V.P. Singh said India has offered a package of confidence-building measures to Pakistan because we want friendly relations with all our neighbors. Our special correspondent, Vivekananda Roy, reports that the prime minister reiterated India's commitment to respond positively to any move from Pakistan for improving bilateral ties.

On the Sri Lankan Tamil problem, the prime minister expressed the hope that the current hostilities between the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and the government troops will not escalate further as this will also result in a massive exodus to India.

The prime minister said Kashmir issue was also discussed during his talks with President Gayoom who was of the opinion that the issue should be settled bilaterally in the spirit of the Simla agreement. Religion should not be brought in to settle the problem because the issue is political and not religious.

Spokesman on Pakistani Troops in Sri Lanka

BK2606160090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] An external affairs ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that India has no information about Sri Lanka seeking help from Pakistan and some other countries to meet the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] threat in the northeastern province. He was commenting on the reported statement by the Congress-I leader, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, that he expected the Pakistani troops to get involved in Sri Lanka.

V.P. Singh Hopes for Positive Pakistani Response

BK2606162990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] India has expressed the hope that Pakistan will respond positively to its package of confidence-building measures for defusing tension on the borders. The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, said New Delhi will take two steps forward if Islamabad displays even one gesture of goodwill for strengthening bilateral relations. He was speaking to a high-powered haj goodwill delegation, which called on him in New Delhi this evening.

Intellectuals Issue Appeal for Peace Process

BK2606164690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Fifty-four leading personalities of India and Pakistan have issued a joint appeal, urging the two countries to start peace process through dialogue. The appeal issued simultaneously in New Delhi and Lahore today, called upon both the countries to take immediate steps to avert any conflict. The Indian signatories include economists Malcolm Adiseshiah and B.S. Minhas; academicians Hasiruddin Ahmad, Bhavani Sen Gupta, and V.S. Vyas; former Supreme Court judges V.K. Krishna Ayer and Mr. V.N. Tarkunde; and journalists B.G. Verghese and Tavlin Singh.

The Pakistani signatories include former Chief Justice of Pakistan Supreme Court Mohammad Yaqub Ali, former Governor General Aizam Khan, former Federal Minister Dr. Muhashir Hassan, and PAKISTAN TIMES editor Aziz Siddiqi.

8 Killed in Violent Incidents in Kashmir

BK2606162090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] In Kashmir Valley, eight persons, including two CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawans [soldiers], were killed by terrorists in separate incidents in Srinagar, Kulgam, and Anantnag. Four persons were also injured. The killed included the joint director of sericulture, Mr. J.N. Raina. Terrorists fired on a Sainic School vehicle in Gandarbal, killing one person and injuring two others. In Anantnag District, terrorists killed two CRPF jawans. Three unidentified bodies were recovered from Kulgam

and Gandarbal. There were two explosions in (Sohra) and (Magarmal Bagh) localities of Srinagar, but no one was injured.

The center has decided to recruit 5,000 youths from Jammu and Kashmir in the paramilitary forces, like the BSF [Border Security Forces], CRPF, CISF [Central Industrial Security Force] and ITBP [Indo-Tibetan Border Police]. Age and physical standard for them have also been relaxed. The upper age limit has been relaxed 23 years but for the matriculate candidates it will be 24 years.

Punjab 'Terrorists' Steal Weapons From Armory

BK2606162190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists looted arms and ammunition from the armory of the General Railway Police in Ferozepore during the early hours today. The state police chief, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, told our Chandigarh correspondent that connivance of sentry on duty with the terrorists is suspected.

Elsewhere in the state, two persons were shot dead, a police post in Amritsar District was attacked, and three persons were kidnapped by the terrorists.

Implications of Pakistani Political Crisis Viewed

BK2106120990 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Rajendra Sarin commentary]

[Text] There is a growing uneasiness in Pakistan over the deepening political crisis. Barely a year and a half after the country came under democratic dispensation, a question is being posed by news commentators now as to whether democracy will survive or not. Democracy is not a natural state of politics in Pakistan. Out of 43 years of its existence as a free country, Pakistan has lived only 16 years under representative government elected by the people. Twenty-seven years it has lived directly under military dictators or some sort of quasi-political dispensation under the dictators. According to Mr. S.K. Burki, a political analyst of great experience, even though people shudder at the thought of living under the jackboot of another dictator, broad hints are being dropped by certain types of politicians, businessmen and mullahs seeking the induction of one more saviour in khaki. The immediate reason is the virtual collapse of law and order in Sindh.

The (?politicized) police is accused by the muhajirs [Indian immigrants] of a bias against them. The Army is portrayed by Sindhis to be inimical to their interests. The Army wants to be invested with powers to operate independently of the civil authority. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is not inclined to let the Army operate unfettered by the constraints of judicial review.

It is interesting to note that some political commentators have begun to talk of prime minister's tenure in office, drawing a clear distinction between office and power. What is sought to be conveyed is that Ms. Bhutto is occupying office of prime minister—the implication being that she is not able to exercise power as the leader of the nation. Reports indicate that Ms. Bhutto's style of governance has created pockets of dissent and disenchantment among her Sindhi support base. Makhdum Khaliq Osman, a former chief of the Sindh Pakistan People's Party [PPP], has turned an inveterate critic of Ms. Bhutto. He has stated that if martial law once again takes over and replaces democracy, no one else but Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto would be held for such a catastrophe. He has blamed Ms. Bhutto for mishandling every issue since the formation of a government at the center.

There are other indicators too which show that Ms. Bhutto is surrounded by a gathering storm. There are reports that the Cabinet has now a body of opinion which is critical of the prime minister's policy as well as her style of functioning. Not all is well between the speaker of the National Assembly, Malik Mairaj Khalid, and Ms. Bhutto. The speaker refused to forward to the Chief Election Commission the reference submitted to him by the minister for parliamentary affairs, Dr. Sher Afghan, seeking disqualification of three Combined Opposition Party members for having used unfair practices to pressure a candidate to withdraw from the elections to the Senate. Dr. Afghan has resigned after his attempts to seek a writ from the high court against the speaker ran into difficulties.

Meanwhile, the speaker has compared the situation in Sindh to Beirut. He said, quote, people around the world now consider us a barbaric nation because of the atrocities committed on our brothers in Sindh. With an image like this, how can we plead our case on Kashmir, unquote. Punjab Chief Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif has said the crisis in Pakistan has emerged because Ms. Benazir Bhutto has tried to play the Sindh card in a bid to cling to power. Mr. Sharif has called upon the Prime Minister Ms. Bhutto to resign, failing which people will come out to the streets, he said.

Another political explosion is ticking away to fuse in Balochistan. The government of the chief minister, Nawab Akbar Bugti, is about to collapse. The erosion in his position is a result of the withdrawal of support by Maulana Fazlur Rahman of the Jamiat-i Ulema-i Islam [JUI]. This brings to the PPP the support of the seven JUI members in the provincial assembly, but Nawab Bugti's fall could trigger off serious turbulence in Balochistan. The PPP might find it a Pyrrhic victory which would saddle it with more problems in a volatile province.

In this background it is significant that official sources in Islamabad have been quoted for reports in the press forecasting potential threat of war by India. These sources have spoken of Pakistan's principled stand on issues like Kashmir. It means that before Pakistan starts a dialogue with India, it expects the latter to abandon the operations against the terrorists in Kashmir armed with Kalashnikovs, high explosive bombs, rocket launchers, and grenades whom Ms. Bhutto herself describes as

unarmed people fighting for their rights. Peace in the subcontinent, therefore, appears to have become a hostage to the political crisis in Pakistan.

Iran

International Earthquake Relief Effort Continues

Velayati Thanks French Minister

LD2606175490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Mr. Bernard Kouchner, France's minister of state for humanitarian action, today met Mr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, and talked about issues of mutual interest and the earthquake in the northern provinces of our country and France's probable [as heard] assistance in this connection. Thanking the French Government for its help and relief work which were speedily placed at the disposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Velayati said: The good memory that our people have regarding the period of the stay of his eminence Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—in France, and the common cultural and historical ties between the two countries mean that no serious difficulty exists on the path of the expansion of bilateral relations. I think that in the future the relations between Iran and France will be more hopeful than in the past.

Israeli, South African Aid Denied

LD2606175890 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA—Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi today rejected reports of Iran receiving relief aid from the Zionist and the South African regimes.

Sarmadi referred to the press conference given by Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Kanmal Kharrazi in New York Monday, and regretted that some segments of the news media have deliberately misquoted the latter's remarks concerning foreign relief aid for quake victims in Iran. "The Islamic Republic of Iran will not accept any direct or indirect aid from the regime occupying Quds or the South African apartheid regime," Sarmadi made it clear.

Sarmadi said, that in his press conference at the U.N., Kharrazi had clearly stated that Iran will not accept any aid from the two illegal regimes, however he welcomed relief from Palestinian combatants and the oppressed people of South Africa, if they succeed in sending their voluntary contributions through international bodies

Aid From Washington Noted

NC2706060090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Groups, organizations, and people in various parts of the world continue to send aid to our quake-stricken compatriots. The first consignment of medicines and medical equipment from the earthquake relief headquarters based in Washington is to be sent to Tehran tomorrow.

Lufthansa airlines has also stated that it will give a 50 percent discount on all the medicines and medical equipment being sent to Iran.

The director of Italy's (TPL) company met with our ambassador to Italy and handed him a check for 125 million Italian lire—more than $100,000—to help the victims of the earthquake in Iran. Another Italian company gave a check for 50 million lire to the Iranian representatives in Rome to be sent as aid for our quake victims.

Castro Envoy in Tehran

NC2606074090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Dr. Kouri, Cuban deputy health minister and the special envoy of Cuban leader Fidel Castro, is in Tehran at the head of a 40-man group of Cuban doctors to help the victims of the recent quake. He met with Mr. Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, and announced his country's readiness to extend any kind of help to the quake victims.

The Cuban deputy health minister pointed out: I have come to Tehran as Mr. Fidel Castro's envoy to convey condolences from the Cuban president, nation, and government to the president, government, and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to state my country's readiness to extend any kind of assistance.

Expressing thanks for the sympathies expressed by the Cuban president, government, and nation, Mr. Va'ezi expressed gratitude for Cuba's assistance to the quake victims.

More Relief Arrives by Plane

LD2606160790 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Tehran, June 26, IRNA—From early Tuesday [26 June] as of 13:15 hours local time (09:45 GMT), 39 military and civilian aircraft loaded with relief aid from 19 countries have landed at Mehrabad Airport.

Of the said relief, 11 plane-loads were sent by Saudi Arabia, four by Kuwait, four by Pakistan, two by Oman, two by Jordan and two by Qatar.

Yemen, Algeria, Greece, West Germany, Dubai, the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Turkey, the Soviet Republic of Armenia, Libya, South Korea, the Netherlands and Norway each sent a plane-load of relief aid today.

A total of 171 plane-loads of relief has arrived in Iran since the day of disaster, from various parts of the world. [passage omitted]

Papers Continue Debate on International Aid

English-Language Dailies Criticized

LD2706101290 Tehran IRNA in English 0839 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA—The recent earthquake has not only caused damage in Gilan and Zanjan Provinces, rather it has shakened ideas and thoughts of some Iranian papers or better to say has brought to surface their trembles," said 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in an inside page commentary Wednesday [27 June].

The article "What Is Happening to the English-Language Papers" criticized the two English morning dailies saying that the advocates of the policy of reconciliation with the West, have chosen these papers to express their views. They have chosen the right channel because these two newspapers print whatever the advocates deem necessary, reflecting them as the views of the senior officials of the country and thus signal the green light to the West. The two papers carry on with no disturbance because most people and officials do not bother with the English papers and do not get to know their mischiefs, said 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI'.

One of the papers revealed itself in the issue of the hostges in Lebanon, case of Roger Cooper, the veteran British spy and domestic liberals, whose treacheries are known to all, it said.

The other, in the issue of the U.S. relief aid to the quake victims, which in fact "marked the peak of the self-revelations of this Tehran morning English daily," it said adding that the paper has become univocal with the French 'LE MONDE' and Zionist and Western news agencies and has lashed out at some domestic papers for having refused the humanitarian gesture of the U.S.

"Naturally the Iranian nation has much to say to such newspapers and we will raise the issues in an appropriate time." What should be said for the time being is that if this trend continues and if the conditions are right, in the near future anyone who speaks against selling of the revolution to the U.S. and opposes becoming a U.S. lackey, will be considered not only "selfish" but a traitor as well, said the article.

Definitely these elements and their loudspeakers would also welcome the donations by Salman Rushdie and the Terry Waite Foundation and consider their opponents "irresponsible", said 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI'.

"One must come to the rescue of the Islam and the revolution that such newspapers want to portray and present to the world in English language. Apparently in presenting the revolution to the world in English language one must think like Britons or the Americans?" concluded the paper.

'Political Motives' Behind Aid

LD2706130190 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA—'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Wednesday expressed gratitude on behalf of the Iranian people to all the world nations and government who sincerely rushed to help the last Thursday's [21 June] earthquake victims in Gilan and Zanjan Provinces.

However, it criticised certain governments for trying to exploit the situation by offering help with propagandistic and political motives.

The daily in its editorial said, "The catastrophe was of such a grave magnitude that prompted the world nations and governments to express their sympathies and rush to help the quake victims in the hope that their speedy assistance may save an injured child for his parents, a heart-rendered mother for her children or a father to protect his family."

"Such genuine display of human values by the world nations and governments is fully understandable and deserves to be respected and praised," stressed the paper.

It said, "to be honest, certain governments had a constructive approach and took positive steps and revealed their humanistic nature through their action without trying to publicize and show off. The amount of their aid is not a determining factor at all, rather the fact that they helped the injured, those who were entrapped under the rubbles...with no intention to show off."

The paper also praised the all-out mobilization of the Iranians to help the victims saying that it was so massive that it impressed and astonished all foreign observers and rescue workers.

It said, "such a brave nation, if feels that certain countries try to dispatch 'string-attached assistance' with specific political and publicity motives, will react accordingly and take a resolute stance."

"To us, the little donation by that bereaved widow from Baku, the help rendered by that brave Nakhichevan youth who rushed to assist his fellow-believers,...the tiny donation of that German, Azerbaijani, Lebanese, Irish or Pakistani citizen who offered a loaf of bread are more valuable and more pleasant than all the aids offered by countries which are after publicity," it added.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' further lashed out at British, American and French media for their useless efforts to depict a lopsided picture of the facts. "They shouldn't invest much hope that by telling lies and insinuating dubiety they can damage our determination to preserve

our values and ideals. We well recognize the filthy image of our enemies even behind a deceiving veil and will expose them to the world."

"Even if our sworn enemies meant good by dispatching relief aid, by resorting to wicked antics and suspicious propaganda they themselves ruined their own efforts. Launching a propaganda campaign and resorting to donation offers of Salman Rushdie, Terry Waite and the likes, although talks of their impossible wish, it is interpreted as a cunning and deliberate action, naturally entailing a resolute and crushing reaction (from Iran). [sentence as received]

"We have recognized our enemies in various events over the past decades. We have felt enmity of the U.S. and Britain with our skin and flesh," It stressed adding if the U.S. is saddened with the death of our children, it would not have given medals to those responsible for downing of the Iranian Airbus. With the same token if the U.S. and Britain cared for our beloved ones, they would not have encouraged the Iraqi regime to launch the war on Iran.

ABRAR Criticizes Disputes

LD2706124690 Tehran IRNA in English 0929 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA—A morning daily Wednesday criticized recent reflection of differences of opinion in local press over the foreign relief aid for the victims of the last Thursday [21 June] devastating quake in northern and northwestern Iran.

'ABRAR' commented that the huge international relief aid for the quake victims, further underscored the fact that despite all ideological and diplomatic differences, governments cannot ignore human conscience.

In an editorial titled: "It's Time To Take Care of the Quake Victims", the daily wrote that some Western media exploited this international mobilization and launched a propaganda ploy. "This propaganda fuss over the dispatched aid is either aimed at attracting the world public opinion or, as some believe, approaching and establishing ties with Iran," the daily noted.

The question is that, the paper argued, "whether helping the earthquake victims in Iran will inevitably lead to establishment of ties with a given country." No doubt, it stressed, the massive loss of life and property in Iran required international cooperation and aid. However, 'ABRAR' recommended, it is not "advisable", under the status quo, to divert the attention of people both inside and outside the country to factional and personal disputes as reflected in the Iranian press these days.

Now it is time to take care of the survivors of the devastating earthquake and meet their immediate needs, wrote the article.

"It is proven to all that chanting of slogans will not solve any problem. We can become immune to the large-scale Western propaganda only when we can meet our needs by ourselves," 'ABRAR' stressed.

The daily noted that reflection of personal disputes in the local press in the past few days "provided the best propaganda subjects for the foreign media so that they could say that there exists differences in Iran even over rendering relief aid to the quake-affected areas". It said that it is a pity that the unity of people was being overshadowed by such personal disputes and noted, "there is enough time for political debates after the quake victims are settled."

Officials Report More Casualties, Aftershocks

90,000 Killed, Injured

LD2706100490 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA—Casualty toll of the last Thursday [21 June] devastating earthquake in northern and northwest Iran, recorded by the Red Crescent Society, amounted to 90,000 people as relief operations are approaching final stages, it was announced here Wednesday.

Speaking in a press conference managing director of Iran's Red Crescent Society, Mohammad Parham, noted that the total figure includes 40,000 dead and 50,000 injured in the two affected Provinces of Gilan and Zanjan.

He added that some 10,000 relief workers of the society rendered a six-day around-the-clock service in the quake-affected areas. Parham also praised service of other relief forces from ministries and government organisations.

The official said that more than 70,000 tents had been sent to the area for the settlement of the survivors adding that 175 foreign planes have airlifted some 1,740 tons of supplies including medical aid and other required items.

Cash donations made in Iran, deposited in a special bank account, so far amounts to more than 1,200 million rials.

Praising the forign relief aid, Parham said that at present about 500 foreign doctors and relief workers were rendering services in the quake-affected areas. He noted that since relief operations were approaching final stages, there was no need for the dispatch of additional foreign doctors and relief workers to Iran.

More Aftershocks Recorded

LD2706112790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] The Geophysics Institute of Tehran University announced: From last night until 1120 this morning, at least 50 strong and weak aftershocks were recorded 2000 km northwest of Tehran. These follow the terrible earthquake of 21 June. The three registered aftershocks,

measuring over four on the Richter scale, occured at 2238 and 38 seconds last night, and at 1126 and 56 seconds and 1109 and one second this morning. These three aftershocks were felt in the towns of Rudbar, Majil, Lowshan, and Rasht.

Experts of Tehran University's Geophysics Institute believe that such aftershocks will continue as a result of structural faults until the earth layers settle down in the wake of last Thursday's earthquake. By 1120 today, the equipment of Tehran University's Geophysics Institute had registered at least 350 small and large aftershocks.

Relief Operations Continue in Gilan Province

NC2706073290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Recorded telephone report by an unidentified correspondent in Rasht]

[Excerpts] A seismograph unit which has been installed in the quake-stricken areas of the province records 2,000 to 3,000 weak aftershocks daily in the province. (Dr. Akkasheh), head of the seimsmological department of the Tehran University Geophysics Center, said in an exclusive interview with a correspondent of the Central News Unit in Rasht: After the earthquake on Thursday [21 June] morning, which registered 7.3 on the Richter scale, a seismograph unit started operations on Friday, in Jirandeh, Tarom, and Rostamabad. In the future bases are also to be set up in Masuleh and Saravan. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, as the dispatch of international relief teams to the Islamic Republic of Iran continues, the 10th relief team arrived in Gilan Province from Soviet Azerbaijan yesterday afternoon. The team, which crossed the border at Astara and was headed by the governor and the imam of the (Emishili) mosque, brought 46 tonnes of rice, flour, cheese, sugar, vegetable ghee, clothing, (?technical), gas, and other products.

Also, in connection with the housing of the victims in Rudbar, Manjil, and Lowshan, the Gilan Province natural disaster headquarters has called on all experts and personnel of government offices in Lowshan, Rudbar, and Manjil to report to their offices in order to organize and accelerate the provision of more relief to the residents of these cities and to carry out their legal duties.

Earthquake Recorded in Kerman Province

LD2606173190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] At 0831 an earthquake recording 4.9 on the Richter scale shook the city of Bam, Kerman Province. According to a report by the Central News Unit, the seismological center of the geophysics department of Tehran University registered the epicenter of the earthquake at 350 kms southeast of Tehran in the vicinity of the city of Bam, and reported its strength as 4.9 on the Richter scale. This morning's earthquake fortunately caused no loss of life or material damage.

Ahmad Jibril Confers With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

JN2506200090 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] A delegation from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], led by Ahmad Jibril, met in Tehran this morning with Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The PFLP-GC delegation conveyed to the Iranian president its condolences over the earthquake victims. The latest political developments in the region and issues of common concern to PFLP-GC and the Islamic Republic of Iran were also discussed during the meeting.

Following the meeting, PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril said the PFLP-GC delegation conveyed to the Iranian president the condolences of the Front and the Palestinian Arab people over the victims of the earthquake and discussed with him the glorious intifadah, the dangers posed by the new Israeli Government under Shamir, and the latest regional and international political developments. The talks focused on the dangers of the new Zionist emigration to Palestine, which is a new war against the Palestinian Arab people whose dangers will spread to the whole region.

Meets With Ahmad Khomeyni

LD2606181890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, official in charge of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command, accompanied by members of his team, met Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni this morning. At the meeting he submitted a report on the problems of Palestine and the struggle of the fighters of Palestine against the Zionists. He then called for the continuation of the imam's line on liberating the revered Quds [Jerusalem] and annihilating the Zionists.

At the meeting Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni thanked the Palestinian strugglers who have relied on their faith and weapons to continue their campaign against the Zionists. He asked them to follow the sacred aspiration of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified—and never lay down their weapons until the total annihilation of Israel. He also asked them to confront the compromising forces who want to sell the Palestinian nation to America.

Karrubi Says Dispute With Saudis 'Fundamental'

LD2606135390 Tehran IRNA in English 1254 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA—A prominent official Tuesday [26 June] castigated the Saudi regime's policies of "supporting America and Zionism".

Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi said, "the dispute between the Islamic Republic and Saudi Arabia is a rooted and fundamental quarrel between American-style Islam and the genuine Islam of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him]". In his opening speech to the two-day "deliverance from pagans" seminar, Karrubi who led the last Iranian hajj caravan to Mecca three years ago, stressed, "there is no compromise in this dispute."

The dispute, he added, stems from the fact that "according to the Holy Koran and traditions (of the prophet—PBUH), we believe hajj is a religious-political issue, while Saudi rulers say it is a mere set of religious rites." Karrubi said that the Saudi rulers were wrong to interpret that "deliverance from pagans" concerned only the era of the prophet (PBUH) when there were pagans in Mecca, and does not apply anymore even through they are present elsewhere in the world.

The Majles speaker wondered at the Saudi logic, saying that "Zionists are allowed to commit whatever crime they want: destroy houses of Muslims and make them homeless, and settle Jews from all over the world in the occupied land. But, Muslims are not allowed even to raise a (voice of) protest?"

Karrubi who was witness to the Saudi massacre of over 400 "guests of God" near the holiest of sanctuaries on July 31, 1987, called for firm reaction from the Muslim world for the liberation of Mecca and Medina from Saudi rule. "Thinkers of the Islamic world should administer these holy cities and discuss issues of the Muslim world there including Palestine, Afghanistan and Kashmir, and also plots against Muslims such as the apostate Salman Rushdie's case," he emphasized.

The speaker said "we have resorted to all means to reach a conclusion but the Saudi rulers, in order to prevent Iranians from performing the (divinely decreed) hajj, have put up obstacles upon America's orders."

The great annual hajj assembly, he said was "highly significant," he said, "but would be much more important for Muslims when political stands of the Islamic world are reflected in it."

At the end of his speech, Karrubi referred to the catastrophic earthquake last Thursday [21 June], and called on Iranian officials to make up for the disaster by their unity and sound planning.

Further Criticism of Saudis

LD2706123190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Excerpts] During today's open session of the Islamic Majles, chaired by Mr. Karrubi, the speaker of the Islamic Majles paid tribute to the martyr Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti and other martyrs of the 7 Tir [26 June explosion at Islamic Republic Party headquarters]. [passage omitted]

The speaker of the Islamic Majles, referring to the event of Mecca's bloody Friday, and while stressing that the massacre of the pilgrims of God's House had been a plan designed in advance, criticized the Saudi regime's policy in preventing the departure of the Iranian pilgrims to perform the hajj rituals, and said: Despite all the efforts undertaken by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Al Sa'ud regime, bearing a grudge and at the behest of the United States, has prevented performance of the divine hajj rituals and has blocked the path to God. Mr. Karrubi added: We have fought for eight years to safeguard the aspirations of the Islamic Revolution and are prepared for any sacrifice in order to safeguard it; and we shall not complomise with any state or government on the aspirations of our valuable revolution. [passage omitted]

KAYHAN on Faults in Saudi Political System

LD1706203790 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 17, IRNA—The Persian daily KAYHAN said Sunday [17 June] that as long as Saudi Arabia is run by an authoritarian clique of 5,000 princelings and the country lacks a populistic organ the political situation in that country may not be expected to improve.

"As far as comparative politics are concerned the Saudi regime is an absolute monarchy with deep roots in tribal elements, and where upheavals such as the economic modernization and foreign policy have done little to change the political system," said KAYHAN.

It noted that the political structuring is basically conditioned by two elements in that country: "First the fact of it being ruled in primitive form with many backward socio-political institutions still operational. Slavery, for example, was abrogated in Saudi Arabia only in 1962. The state has no constitution and King Fahd has limitless control on his cabinet..."

"Second, the schismatic Wahhabi belief" said the daily, "serves the basis for the government whereupon to claim legitimicy for its every act. [no closing quotes as received]

It said the Saudi tribal set up has pretentions to be the principal executor of the Sharia, a claim especially challenged by the Shi'ite Muslims who are the overwhelming majority in the eastern oil-rich region bordering the Persian Gulf, and have sizable populations elsewhee in the Hijaz.

The daily recalled that towards the end of 1979 Shi'ite resentment against the ruling Wahhabi minority erupted in protest demonstrations and later during the 1980's the same wave of protests continued, though the Saudis tried to suppress the masses by force of violence.

In the wake of the funnelling of petro-dollars to Saudi Arabian treasury, the regime launched its so-called economic rehabilitation programme, which far from

bringing any change in that country was almost a failure as far as political reformation was concerned.

"Foreign capitals, upstart aristocracy, neo-rich large land owners, and Wahhabi tribal chiefs who have the final word in 'tribal councils' continue to form the poltiical and social fabric of the part of the Arabian Peninsula known as Saudi Arabia, without any place for the verdict of the masses," said KAYHAN.

Such being the atmosphere, the situation for initiating reforms is obviously highly inappropriate in a country where a heterogenous combination of 5,000 princelings wield political power and exercize control on economic resources, and where the ruler's advisers are no more than courtiers.

Therefore, concluded the daily, "in the absence of a popular government organ, to say anything of the possibility of a political reformation in that country is quite impossible."

Papers Comment on Resumption of Ties With UK

UK 'Created' Difficulties

NC2506155790 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 12 Jun 90 p 8

[Editorial: "The British Authorities and Their Acceptance of Facts"]

[Excerpts] Thatcher, the British prime minister, has stated that any insults to Islam are blasphemous. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said in a radio and television interview that the resumption of ties between Great Britain and the Islamic Republic of Iran depends on the fulfillment of the conditions stated by the Islamic Majles. Peter Temple-Morris, the British Conservative member of parliament and head of the parliamentary group for friendship with Iran, has said that the British Government and people express regret at any insult which has been directed toward Iran. [passage omitted]

It may be worth mentioning that some time ago Peter Temple-Morris proposed that he should lead a visit by a British parliamentary delegation to Iran for talks on improving relations between the two countries. This was supported by British diplomatic circles.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd also welcomed Temple-Morris' proposal, but the Iranian Government opposed the visit. The Iranian officials, in particular the president, reiterated that the decree on the execution of Salman Rushdie still stands. [passage omitted]

The difficulties relating to a resumption of relations with Great Britain do not stem from Iran but have in fact been created by the British themselves, and can only be resolved by British officials. If the British have accepted that any insult to Islam is blasphemous and that Muslims comprise the second largest religious group in the country, then, first, they will have to remove all obstacles preventing Muslims from taking legal proceedings against the book "The Satanic Verses" and its apostate author, Salman Rushdie.

Second, they should come down from their high horse and show respect for Islam and the Muslims' sanctities by paying attention to the bill approved by the Islamic Majlis. They should admit that enmity toward the Islamic Revolution, Islam, and the Islamic Republic of Iran will not harm Iran, and that it is only Great Britain which will suffer immense losses.

What can be gleaned from the remarks of Temple-Morris and Thatcher is that the British officials are gradually opening their eyes to realities and facts, even though this is taking place very slowly. The English language newspaper TEHRAN TIMES has stated that the decree by his eminence the imam regarding Salman Rushdie still stands and that an improvement in mutual relations depends on the implementation of the conditions in the bill approved by the Islamic Majlis, to which there was extensive reaction in the international mass media.

It is necessary and it would be enough for the British officials to show respect for Islam by condemning the insults to the Muslims' sanctities, by permitting the British courts to follow up the complaints of the Muslims of the country, and by complying with the stipulations of the bill approved by the Islamic Majlis.

Thatcher Takes 'Great Stride'

NC1506154390 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Jun 90 p 2

[Editorial: "U.K. Takes Big Step To Normalize Ties With Iran"]

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher took a great stride towards normalization of ties with Iran when she said last week that her government has "the greatest respect for Islam, the greatest possible respect."

She said Britain understands the Moslems' concern about anything that they regard as an insult to Islam.

The British premier also said her country has been "quite anxious to start talks once again (with Iran) to restore diplomatic relations."

Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani meanwhile has reciprocated by saying that Iran faces no obstacles in principle to normalizing ties with the United Kingdom, as both countries are "for restoration of ties."

The country's chief executive further noted that the Foreign Ministry has been instructed to restore ties with London as soon as the terms of the law passed by the Majlis are met.

The Majlis (Parliament) made it a law last year that Irano-British relations could be restored only after the

United Kingdom condemns insults to Islam in the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" and announced its respect for Islam and Moslems.

The statements by the two heads of states are explicit, positive, friendly and a great stride towards restoration of ties between the two capitals.

These statements have followed an interview recently held by the Reuter and the Associated Press with the Foreign Ministry Director General for Western Europe Hoseyn Musavian. He told the news agencies that once the British government condemns insult to Islam and announces its respect for Islam and Moslems, the biggest snag in the way of restoration of ties will be lifted.

He further noted that even as the late Imam Khomeyni's Fatwa will remain valid, the two countries could improve ties within the framework of the law passed by the Majlis and on the basis of respect for international regulations, diplomatic norms, non-interference in one another's internal affairs, non-violation of each other's national sovereignty and respect for each other's domestic regulations. This is in fact a good formula to settle the problems between Tehran and London.

Now the recent position-takings by the officials from the two sides have paved the way for normalization of ties as both parties have expressed their views vividly and with courage.

There is however some distance to cover before the two countries' relations can be officially and ultimately normalized.

Perhaps this remaining portion of the way to restoration of ties has been created by the British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd when he recently said, although he respects Islam he cannot as a cabinet minister condemn the person of Rushdie or his book.

Apparently the secretary has mixed up the essential and crucial fact that Iran's main concern is condemnation of the act of insult to sanctities of Islam and Moslems. Now if Mr Hurd is in agreement with insulting great Divine religions such as Islam and Christianity, well, this means a perpetuation of the problem of the two countries' normalization of relations. But if he is against insult to these Divine religions, he should not hesitate to express the same. To oppose a violation of values and beliefs of nations is among the most basic rights of nations and human beings. It is indeed surprising that the British foreign secretary should ignore this very significant and valuable issue and instead concern himself with a valueless person such as Rushdie. Rushdie has no value to Iran, and the world of Islam. He has practically insulted the sacred values of some one billion Moslems and British officials should not refrain from condemning insult to sanctities of nations and great divine religions of the world.

By and large and in spite of the failure on the part of the British secretary in gaining a true grasp of the issue, the positions taken by British Premier Thatcher and Iran's President Hashemi-Rafsanjani have indeed been principal and great strides towards normalization of ties between their countries.

Commentary on Suspension of PLO-U.S. Talks

NC2406081490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] The suspension of talks between the United States and the PLO has generated various reactions. It proved that 'Arafat's policy of moderation could not achieve its objectives.

The talks between the PLO and the United States began 18 months ago, after 'Arafat officially recognized the Israel regime, accepted all the UN resolutions, and denounced terrorism—implying the attacks on Zionist interests outside the occupied territories.

During the 18 months since the talks began, only four rounds of talks took place, and the U.S. representative in these talks was its ambassador in Tunis.

In view of Israel's propaganda of discontent on the convocation of these talks, and with the intervention of the influential Jewish groups in the United States, after a while the talks between the PLO and the United States lapsed into a state of stagnation. For 10 months not one session took place.

This situation continued until last month, on the eve of 30 May, when a Palestinian naval unit attacked the coast of Tel Aviv and attempted to land some forces there. The PLO, who was responsible for the operation, says it was successful. Whether it was or not, and whether much headway was made—12 of the Palestinian guerrillas were arrested and four others were killed according to the usurpist regime—Israel and the United States resumed their litany that there are doubts about the PLO's condemnation of terrorism. This was because the leader of these operations was Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], a member of the PLO's Executive Committee.

If these operations were carried out with the concurrence of 'Arafat or at least with his knowledge, it was probably with the aim putting pressure on the United States to end the stalemate in its relations with the PLO and in the Palestinian political crisis. If these operations were carried out without 'Arafat's knowledge and consent, it was to put pressure on 'Arafat to refrain from his political retreat that has achieved nothing.

'Arafat's policy is based on the strategy that by depending on the Palestinian uprising, every kind of political retreat can be used. However, he must have thought that by officially recognizing the Zionist regime as a last resort, Israel would have to dispense with all of its excuses not to give official recognition to the PLO and

not to enter into talks with it, and thus 'Arafat would throw the ball into the other party's court.

It was of no benefit, because these measures did not result in any amelioration of the occupationist regime's policies; and eventually, after three months of a cabinet crisis in Israel, a government took office which is the most filthy and criminal one of the past 40-odd years. On the other hand, the United States—apart from its officials' political remarks—which calls on everyone to strive for peace, has not taken one step that might indicate any kind of pressure on the occupationist regime. It even vetoed the UN resolution following the murder of Palestinian workers.

In addition, Washington stepped up its pressure on the PLO to condemn the operations by the Abu al-'Abbas groups. Though the PLO has condemned terrorist actions many times, it avoided condemnation of these operations. Finally, the United States took a step that did not surprise anyone and announced that it had suspended talks with the PLO.

Following this decision by the United States, the Zionist regime did not conceal its exultation, and the Israeli officials declared that they have always said the PLO is a terrorist organization. However, the PLO, the Arab League, and all the forces dedicated to peace and compromise, expressed their regret at the U.S. action. They insisted that halting the talks would only give the extremists greater opportunities to act and would weaken the moderates.

Reciprocally, the Palestinian groups and forces, who from the outset did not agree with 'Arafat's policy, were happy about the break in the negotiations and stressed that this measure proved that the U.S. Government is not sincere in seeking an equitable solution in the region and has affirmed that it is not a mediator but is one of the involved parties.

Some of these organizations, such as the Islamic Jihad, asked 'Arafat to halt political initiatives and to resume armed struggle for the liberation of the entire Palestinian territory. In any case, some of the analysts believe that the U.S. Government will not permit conditions to arise that would put the initiative in the hands of the extremists in the PLO, but that it will attempt to resume talks with the PLO on some other pretext.

It may be kept in mind that the United States has suspended the talks until such time as the PLO gives a clear response to the U.S. demands.

Paper Reports 'Normalization' Talks With U.S.

NC2706104390 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 25 Jun 90 p 5

[Text] Iranian-U.S. relations have taken advanced and important steps recently toward a normalization of the situation between Washington and Tehran.

In this connection, it has been learned that an American envoy named Tommy Danes [name as published] is holding talks with Iranian officials on a reassessment of Iranian troop equipment and on ensuring a direct supply of U.S. spare parts to these troops without having to pass through the South Korean markets.

It was also learned that an Iranian delegation has been in the United States since 4 May, but the nature of the visit and the identity of the delegation members as well as that of the U.S. officials with whom they met are unknown.

Furthermore, it is reported that a secret U.S. mediation attempt has begun with a view to returning former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr to Iran as a "sign of goodwill."

Nationwide Meeting of Judicial Officials Held

President Speaks at Meetinge

LD2306155390 Tehran IRNA in English 1459 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressing a nationwide gathering of judicial officials Saturday [23 June] underlined the need for the independence and decisiveness of the judiciary.

"The method of judging and qualifications of judges have undergone drastic changes along with the socio-political conditions...finding an experienced and competent judge is not an easy job," Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said.

"Our expectations from the judiciary before anything else is that it should not be influenced by factionalism or dominated by a hostile atmosphere," he said. The president warned that "those influential persons commiting offenses and linked with the country's political, cultural and publicity centers must be treated seriously."

Urging the judiciary to make efforts to remove the defects of the country's administrative sector, the president said "the friendship between the judicial and executive heads of a town should not be such that people feel worried."

Yazdi Closes Gathering

LD2506130390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Mr. Yazdi, head of the judiciary, delivered a speech at the closing ceremony of the first nationwide gathering of judicial officials. He said: Henceforth no excuse will be accepted by any judge or executive official with regard to violation of the judiciary's independence.

With reference to the remarks on the judiciary's independence the president and the Majles speaker at that gathering he said: Henceforth the observance of its independence in terms of the issuance of verdicts by the

judges is a binding obligation. The judge should perform resolutely his legal and judicial duties and issue a verdict decisively and with total independence. The country's judicial officials should display in their practice the independence of the judiciary.

Regarding the job security of the judges, the head of the judiciary said: This strata are among the noblest in society and should be protected, since judging is considered a prophetic occupation.

As regards the earthquake disaster in the Provinces of Gilan and Zanjan, the head of the judiciary said: In this connection the judiciary has made the appropriate decisions for those who have been made homeless. To safeguard what remains of their belongings, it has coordinated with the law and order forces to deal with those individuals who intend to exploit this in any way. In this connection, a number of mobile courts will be set up in the earthquake-stricken areas to deal decisively with those culprits who engage in exploitation.

The three-day nationwide gathering of judicial officials closed with the adoption of a six-point resolution. In that resolution the country's judicial officials announced their readiness for the realization of the rights of the government and the people, calling for resolute action against the sworn enemies of the Islamic revolution, the plunderers and the exploiters.

Successes of Aircraft Repair Industry Reported

LD1806122690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Thanks to the efforts of the dedicated and expert personnel of the Iranian aircraft manufacturing company, affiliated to the defense industries organization and the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, construction work on the nose cone of an F-4 aircraft has been completed successfully for the first time.

According to our correspondent's report, during a ceremony this morning in the presence of the deputy chief of the General Command Headquarters of the Armed Forces, the nose cone of the aircraft was installed on an aircraft following the necessary experiements. The Iranian aircraft manufacturing company began discussing the construction of the nose cone of an F-4 aircraft toward the end of 1367 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] and its manufacturing operations started in 1368 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989]. The manufactured or repaired parts which constitute over 90 percent of the nose cone, comprise in total 919 manufactured parts and 168 repaired parts. According to technical experts, among the most difficult parts manufactured are the lower longeron parts and the hinged fittings, which were assembled by that industry's engineering group, and used in the construction of those parts, which are in fact one of the most complicated manufacturing and repair operations on fighter aircraft, and could be termed as Iran's greatest technical achievement in terms of aircraft manufacturing and repair.

According to the same report, the company's personnel also succeeded in carrying out the overhaul and repair of the engine of the F-14 aircraft. This engine will be installed on the aircraft in the (?TSL) department after the completion of the experimental stages. It should be noted that Iran's aircraft manufacturing company has repaired over 1,000 military and nonmilitary aircraft, as well as repairing and overhauling over 2,400 helicopter engines. Moreover, in spite of the impositon of economic sanctions and the sacking of 1,000 foreign personnel, and the problems of the war period, this industry has managed to repair and overhaul over eight different aircraft and helicopter engines and six different fighter, transport, fuel, and passanger aircraft, as well as carrying out the necessary experiments on them while maintaining the highest international standards of quality.

Maldives

Indian Prime Minister Pays Official Visit

Arrives, Meets President

BK2206163290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, was given a warm and ceremonial welcome, when he arrived at Male International Airport this evening on a three-day official visit to the Republic of Maldives. Bugle sounded as he alighted from the special aircraft of Indian Air Force.

AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent, Parameshwar Kashyap, reports from Male that the Maldivian president, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, brushing aside protocol, himself received the prime minister and other members of his delegation. [passage omitted]

President Hosts Banquet

BK2306045690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] India and Maldives have called for concerted efforts by the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries to combat terrorism in the region. Speaking at a banquet hosted in his honor by the president of Maldives, Mr. Gayoom, in Male last night, the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, stressed the need to give a collective push to the process of regional cooperation under SAARC. He said we need to work together more effectively to curb the menace of terrorists. Mr. Singh said both India and Maldives stand by the ideals and principles of the Nonaligned Movement and attach importance in retaining complete freedom of judgment and action in international relations.

In his address, Mr. Gayoom recalled India's help in crushing the 1988 coup attempt in Maldives. He said India's prompt assistance demonstrated its commitment toward upholding the values of democracy, freedom, and

stability in the region. Our special correspondent, Vivekananda Roy, says that President Gayoom has said that India and Maldives have been very close in sharing the goals of peace, stability, and cooperation.

The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, called for analyzing causes of rise in the ocean level, posing a serious threat to oceanic countries like Maldives, and to identify remedial measures. Mr. Singh said the degradation of the environment and the damage to the ecological cycle call for global cooperation to arrest them, because survival of countries like Maldives is particularly at stake. He said he feels honored to be the first head of government to visit Maldives to mark the silver jubilee of its independence.

Mr. Singh said there can be no lasting peace as long as the divide between the rich and the poor nations continues to grow. He said in keeping with the people's mandate, the National Front government has tried to give a new and positive thrust to relations with the neighboring countries. It has also strengthened the existing friendship with other neighboring countries and the efforts in these directions will be continued, the prime minister added.

AIR [All India Radio] correspondent Paramesh Kashyap reports that President Gayoom in his banquet speech suggested that Colombo may host the SAARC summit before the summit in Maldives in November this year. President Gayoom said that Maldives will be willing to accept such an arrangement in the interest of Maldives-Sri Lankan friendship.

'Extensive' Discussions Held

BK2306160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, held extensive discussions with the Maldivian president, Mr Gayoom, on matters of mutual interests in the Maldives. The two leaders had gone to an island resort to have informal discussions. Formal talks were held in the afternoon. [passage omitted].

In the evening, Mr. V.P. Singh, was accorded a civic reception by the municipal councillor of Male. Responding to the reception, Mr. V.P. Singh spoke of the age-old relations between the two countries. He said though our countries may be different in size, our relationship is based on equality and respect for each other's sovereignty. He said it is in this spirit of friendship and mutual respect that India responded to Maldive's call for assistance in November 1988 when mercenaries attempted to subvert Maldive's independence. It is an article of faith with India that small states like the Maldives have an inalienable right to live in peace without having to divert their precious resources for maintaining large armies. That is why India cosponsored the resolution brought by the Maldives in the United Nations on the security of small states.

Mr. V.P. Singh expressed the hope that the United Nations will soon evolve a system to enhance the security of small nations and see that they are less vulnerable to externally sponsored subversion. The prime minister said we need to create a global climate in which nations irrespective of their size and military power can live in peace and pursue their economic development and a better life for their people.

Singh, Gayoom To Strengthen Ties

BK2406083990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] In Maldives, Indian assistance is to be extended for setting up an institute for training in various aspects of the hotel industry, vocational training, and for augmenting shipping services to increase trade. These decisions were taken at hour-long official talks between the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, and the president of Maldives, Mr. Gayoom, in Male yesterday. The two countries also resolved to cement their relations further through increased cooperation in various other fields. The Indian delegation at the talks included the commerce minister, Mr. Arun Nehru.

President Gayoom told Mr. V.P. Singh that Maldives has initiated a number of measures for political reforms in the archipelago comprising some 200 inhabited islands out of about 1,200 which come under the 25-year-old republic. These include more decentralization of power and reducing economic disparity between the people of the capital, Male, and the other islands. Mr. Singh on his part told the president of Maldives that the National Front government is doing similar reforms by decentralizing power and reducing disparity between the developed and backward regions.

Briefing newsmen about the bilateral talks in Male yesterday evening, an official spokesman accompanying the prime minister said Mr. V.P. Singh reiterated his great appreciation for the Maldives support to the Indian stand about the Kashmir issue. President Gayoom said Maldives is maintaining the stand that Kashmir is a political issue and not a religious problem.

President Gayoom thanked India for supporting Maldives resolution in the United Nations regarding the security of small states like Maldives. He requested the prime minister to send some Indian scientists to study in greater depth the threat posed by the rise in the sea and ocean levels in the interest of Maldives.

Nepal

Premier's India Visit Called 'Resounding Success'

BK2506104690 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 12 Jun 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Resounding Success"]

[Text] By any yardstick, Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai's three-day visit to the Indian capital, which concluded here on Sunday, can be described as a resounding success. Both Kathmandu and New Delhi have agreed to restore status quo ante to April 1, 1987 in their relations. To be resumed from the beginning of next month, the status will remain operative till the finalisation of a comprehensive arrangement "covering all aspects of bilateral relations." Widely described as an historic visit in both the neighbouring nations, its outcome has, indeed, placed their relations on the right rails. Prime Minister Bhattarai was, therefore, accurate in considering the visit as a "complete success"—something firmly endorsed also by his Indian counterpart Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who said the ties were "fully normalised".

As Prime Minister Bhattarai indicated to the press on his return home Sunday evening, he made painstaking efforts to dispel the prevailing mistrust and suspicion. The several rounds of talks the Prime Ministers of the two countries had, eventually led to the restoration of status quo ante. Mr. Bhattarai, it may be recalled, had before the visit sent a series of signals to New Delhi about his hopes that the latter would agree to the status quo ante proposal. The request, happily, was agreed upon during the subsequent visit. At the same time, a higher level of understanding between the two countries has been fostered; outstanding issues discussed at considerable length within the permission of the time frame of the visit; many differences ironed out; and a fund of goodwill created. Thus the chapter, a far from a pleasant one, that had started 15 months ago, comes to an end, to usher in a fresh and better one that bids farewell to the chilly nosedive the relations between the two countries had suffered for well over a year now.

New Delhi had consistently raised the question of its security perceptions and Mr. Bhattarai's assurance appears to have dispelled whatever doubts it might have harboured. Mr. Bhattarai unambiguously said that "we are very sincere when we say that we shall take care of their (India's) security susceptibilities and we shall not allow Nepal to be a base for anything directed against India." Among the other major outcomes includes the decision to explore new vistas of mutually beneficial projects related to industry, human resources development, tapping water resources and management of environment. India has also agreed to sharply increase the present standby credit facility of 250 million rupees to 350 million rupees in addition to allowing imports of Nepalese products with up to 65 percent Nepalese raw materials and labour. Mr. Bhattarai has, in this regard, categorically stated that the most favoured nation system of trade is not suitable for Nepal. As such, the Kingdom will start importing "as much goods as possible from India".

An immediate, positive and desperately awaited result on the prices front should, therefore, be within sight. Mr. Bhattarai had assured Nepalese consumers, soon after assuming office, that prices of essentials would substantially fall once the differences with India were resolved. He reiterated the assurance this week also when he announced that the prices of goods imported from India would start taking a downward slide within seven days. This does bring warm news for the hard-pressed consumers lashed by an unbridled price hike all these months on account of the Nepal-India impasse. Likewise, the problem of transportation of goods across the nation, particularly in the western and far western regions is also expected to be over, thanks to the resumption of trade and transit points in areas of these regions which also border with our southern neighbour.

In short, the Prime Minister's visit has helped restore Nepal-India ties to normalcy, reinforced the level of good understanding after the clearing away of the "aberration" that crept into the bilateral relations in the past 15 months and paved the way for economic relief to the Nepalese people. He has not returned home empty-handed. He left for New Delhi with a positive attitude and returned with laurels. The visit has also tellingly underscored the fact that neither of the neighbours should take either country's relations for granted; instead, both should constantly engage themselves in earnest efforts to understand and accomodate each other's aspirations within the parametres of two sovereign, friendly nations. Let us, in conclusion, say swagatam [welcome] to the return of normalcy of relations between Nepal and India.

Communist Party Demands End to Accord With India

BK2606012490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1844 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Kathmandu, June 25 (AFP)—The extreme-left Nepal Communist Party (Flaming Torch) wants to abolish a recent agreement reached in New Delhi between the prime ministers of Nepal and India, a party spokesman said Monday [25 June].

The party's central spokesman, Chitra Bahadur K.C., told reporters Monday that the agreement reached in early June between the Nepalese Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh had benefitted India over Nepal. He said the pact was "unequal and it must be abrogated."

Mr. Chitra Bahadur said the withdrawal of the work permits for the Indian nationals and the acceptance of the common rights of the Nepalese rivers were against the interest of Nepal's national sovereignty and integrity.

The group led by Mohan Bikram Singh Gharti has been campaigning strongly for a constitutional assembly to draft the new constitution. The group has not joined Mr. Bhattarai's coalition government, nor has it supported the agreement reached between the coalition partners and Nepal's King Birendra.

Speaking to a crowded press conference, Mr. Chitra Bahadur said "so long as the national sovereignty is vested in the hands of the king, the multi-party system

can not progress well and last long." He said the constitution should be drafted through the elected constitutional assembly, but not by a group of people appointed by the king.

Asked by an Indian journalist whether his party will demand that the government cancel the Indo-Nepalese agreement, reached early in June in New Delhi, and boycott the Indian goods, Mr. Chitra Bahadur said "the agreement ... is unequal and it has largely benefitted India rather than Nepal." "There is no question of boycotting the Indian goods by our party, but we have only the reservation against the unequal agreement made by the Nepalese prime minister," he said.

"Whether or not to participate in the forthcoming general election is a matter of our party policy which has yet to be decided, however, for the time being we would continue our struggle for the constitutional assembly and defy the election based on the constitution given by the king," he said. "We would continue our struggle to compel the king to handing over the national sovereignty to the people," Mr. Chitra Bahadur said.

He also said there was an escalation of tension and incidents in different parts of the kingdom, primarily in regions bordering India, and blamed the trouble on its neighbor "in an apparent bid to divide national sovereignty.

Fourth Party Formed Since Advent of Democracy

BK2106100990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0926 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Kathmandu, June 21 (AFP)—A new political party, the Janata Dal or Socialist Democratic Party (SDP), has been formed in Nepal, its president and current Minister for Education and Culture Keshar Jung Rayamajhi said here Thursday [21 June]. Dr. Rayamajhi, considered here both a communist and loyal to the monarchy, said in statement the new party wanted to strengthen the country's fledgling democratic system.

The SDP is the fourth party set up here since pro-democracy demonstrations ended the partyless political system and brought about the formation of a coalition government led by the Nepali Congress in April.

The party would try to represent the people's views in the Council of Ministers and keep a watch on the Nepali Congress.

Dr. Rayamajhi said the "private sector should be encouraged under a mixed economic system," adding that the basic needs of the people could only be met by mobilising its financial resources. He emphasised the need for safeguarding all religions, languages, culture and traditional values in the world's only Hindu state. Emphasising the need for adopting a non-aligned foreign policy to safeguard the country's sovereignty, Dr. Rayamajhi said a "friendly attitude should be developed with the neighbouring countries, including China and India." Nepal needed a constitutional monarchy, he said.

Pakistan

Foreign Secretary on Proposed Talks With India

BK2506140590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Jun 90 pp 1, 6

[By Aroosa Alam]

[Text] Islamabad, June 24—Foreign Secretaries of Pakistan and India are likely to meet in Islamabad during the second week of July to discuss ways and means to ease tension between the two countries.

This was disclosed by Foreign Secretary Tanvir Ahmad Khan in an interview with THE MUSLIM.

He revealed that the date and venue of talks have not yet been finalised, since India had left this at the option of Pakistan and he has proposed that the meeting should take place in Pakistani capital after Id al-Adha. These would be held probably during the second week of next month. He said he had telephonic conversation with his Indian counterpart on the subject.

He said Indian response was still awaited but he hoped that India would accept his suggestion. Formalities would be sorted out through normal diplomatic channels, he said.

The Foreign Secretary said that there was no specific agenda for the talks and the two sides would discuss the present state of relationship in a wider context and Kashmir being the core issue is bound to be the centre of negotiations.

He said both sides had already exchanged proposals which are likely to be discussed during the meeting.

The talks would be taking place at a time when relations between the two countries are at the lowest ebb following massive uprising by the Muslims of Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir demanding their right to self-determination. Repressive measures by the Indian army and security agencies have failed to have any impact on the movement and India finds refuge in blaming Pakistan for arming and training Kashmiri freedom fighters, which Pakistan has vehemently denied.

After Yaqub Khan-Gujral talks in New York during the extraordinary session of UN General Assembly, India came out with a package of proposals in the last week of May for normalisation of relations. But Pakistan told India that its package did not mention central issues of Kashmir and withdrawal of Indian troops from border.

Instead, Pakistan sent its own proposals to India on June 5, which included the suggestion that the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries met at an early date to set the process of normalisation in motion.

A few days back, India expressed its willingness to hold talks with Pakistan. Like Pakistan, India has reportedly

pointed out that Pakistani proposals were not comprehensive as according to them the main cause of their concern, i.e. Pakistan's alleged help to Kashmiris, has not been mentioned. However, India agreed to have a dialogue with Pakistan.

Kashmir Issue on Agenda of Cairo ICO Meeting

BK2606154990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan has received from the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] secretary general a draft of the provisional agenda of the next meeting of ICO foreign ministers scheduled to be held in Cairo. The agenda includes the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The proposal to include the issue in the agenda was made by Pakistan. The provisional agenda will be finalized at a meeting of senior ICO officials in July.

Official Urges 'Serious' Talks on Kashmir

BK2706034890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Mr. Iqbal Akhund, adviser to the prime minister on foreign affairs and national security, has reiterated that Pakistan is ready to enter into serious discussions with India on a mutual and balanced troops reduction in the subcontinent. Inaugurating a seminar on disarmament and arms limitation in Islamabad yesterday, he said the future of Kashmir is yet to be decided and cannot be settled against the will of the people of Kashmir and in violation of the pledges made to them by India, Pakistan, and the United Nations. He said that the time has come for sincere and serious efforts on the final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue as agreed by the two countries at Simla nearly 20 years ago.

Mr. Akhund expressed the hope that the forthcoming talks at the level of foreign secretaries and at other levels between Pakistan and India will reduce tension on the borders, create mutual confidence, and open the way for an enduring settlement of the Kashmir issue.

Kashmiri Leader Warns Against 'Massacre'

BK2606022290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1935 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, June 25 (AFP)—Amanullah Khan, leader of the week-old provisional government of the independent state of Jammu and Kashmir Monday [25 June] warned New Delhi that his party could check the "massacre" of Kashmiri Moslems in Indian-held Kashmir.

Mr. Khan, chief of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), one of the several militant groups spearheading a separatist movement in the Indian controlled northern two-third of Kashmir, on June 18 formed a 24-member independent government, which Islamabad rejected as "invalid."

In his first public gathering since the announcement in this capital city of the Pakistani-administered part known as Azad (Free) Kashmir, he accused the Indians of "organising most of the brutalities" in Kashmir. He urged the world to come to the rescue of the people who have "fallen prey to the Indian hegemony."

The JKLF leader, who is wanted by New Delhi for alleged terrorism, said people of Kashmir have the "right to revolt" against the Indian occupation. "The Indian troops' presence in their state could not be justified," he said, adding that his party had the courage to check the "massacre of innocent people of Kashmir by the Indian forces."

More than 600 people have been killed, mostly in clashes with security forces, since the uprising erupted in the Himalayan state this year.

Paper Criticizes Bhutto's Sindh Policy

BK2506153090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Jun 90 pp 1, 6

[From "Comment" column by Nasim Zehra: "Benazir, the Fading Hope"]

[Text] Benazir's handling of the Sindh crisis may spell disaster for her party, for Sindh's inhabitants, and for the country in the long run. Under an extended Sindh crisis, politics of ethnicity, hatred and division may reign supreme. The country may be destined to live through more years of violence and turmoil. Sindh's angry and helpless people may be doomed to accepting the leadership of the feudal dinosaurs, the embittered Palcejos, and the angry Altaf Hussains.

Two factors have dominated public discussion over Sindh. One relates to history and the other to law. Historical causes of Sindh's current crisis are economic and political in character. Sindhis have suffered from adverse economic conditions: from underdevelopment and unemployment. The economically and socially exploitative and the politically collaborative Sindhi feudals, the inequitable distribution among provinces of the government's resources, the absence of provincial autonomy and the curse of military dictatorship have together perpetuated these conditions.

Zia's military intelligence men actively fanned inter-Sindhi and inter-ethnic rivalry. Criminalisation and militarisation of Sindh politics was to a large extent an outcome of Zia's strategy to crush the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] in Sindh and to crush the 1983 Sindh-based MRD [Movement for the Restoration of Democracy] movement. The military regime actively delegitimised political avenues for expression of discontent. Paradoxically, it also reinforced existing and new political formation. MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement], the angry, militant and lethally armed ethnic party, emerged during Zia's era. The military and the PPP government are at odds over the Sindh crisis. Extreme distrust of each other's intentions in dealing with the Sindh crisis is apparent in the impasse over the terms of the army's

deployment to "restore law and order." The army has been deployed for the past three weeks under executive order. It has expressed reservations over remaining deployed in Sindh under the executive order. They want the Prime Minister to invoke Article 254 of the Constitution which would invest power in the military to put on trial those arrested on terrorist charges. Under Clause 3 of Article 245, the High Court's jurisdiction is suspended in areas "in which the Armed Forces are, for the time being." Benazir is unwilling. She argues her struggle for civil liberties as an opposition leader prevents her from compromising with the military on the issue of civilian rights. She is only willing to invoke Article 147 under which the military is called in aid of the civilian government.

More important than the historical dimension of the Sindh crisis and its impact on civil-military relations is the impact this crisis would have on the future texture and character of Pakistan's politics. Historical mistakes have to be set right. Redressing socio-economic and political damage is a time consuming task which has two prerequisites. First is the formulation of a vision for a socially, economically and politically meaningful future. The second is a political commitment to implementing this vision. Only this would dilute the anger and resentment borne of legitimate historical grievances of the past.

People have to be regarded as conscious and rational human beings. Politics of mass hysteria and jingoism is self-destructive and breeds hatred among the economically discontented and frustrated voters. It provides them vicarious pleasure while perpetuating social and political decadence in society.

The people of Pakistan through the ballot bestowed upon Benazir the responsibility to inject new vision into Pakistan's politics. That provided her the opportunity to set a political agenda of economic development, of social progress, of an equitable distribution, of provincial autonomy, of a decentralized state for Pakistan. Such an agenda would have gradually discredited ethnic and sectarian-ridden politics.

Instead, her politics of compromise, corruption and patronage further legitimised politics of ethnicity and sectarianism. Ranks of ethnic political groups may be temporarily swelled with those disillusioned with a nationalist leader. Ironically, Benazir herself is not safe from the backlash of her own politics. Her gradual descent from a national leader to a provincial leader is under way.

In invoking Sindhi ethnicity, Benazir is reinforcing the old and decadent parameters of politics. Ethnic, sectarian and communal politics have historically served only the politician. Once in the assemblies, the voter is normally forgotten. Voters have no power of organisation in rural and in most urban areas to hold them accountable. The primary spin-off of Pakistani brand of politics has been active dehumanizing of people.

There is a consensus among political observers that Benazir must be more rational in dealing with the Sindh problem. It cannot be solved through a law and order approach. Army patrolling and picketing in Hyderabad and Karachi is only a stop-gap arrangement. Sindh's countryside still remains the hot-bed for politically-linked dacoits. "Cleansing" Sindh of "terrorists" the Hyderabad-operation style is not possible. Both Sindhis and Muhajirs are equally angry at the government for being partisan. Ordinary people on both sides continue to live in fear and anguish.

Following the events of the last few weeks, an impression has grown that the Prime Minister and her government have become parties to the ethnic conflict in Sindh. The army is reluctant to be used in a partisan fashion; its officers appear convinced that this is precisely what they will be doing if their operations were carried under orders of the civilian government.

Sincere and immediate dialogue with the MQM leadership is crucial. The current impasse in Sindh politics can end only if Benazir rises above the Sindhi versus Muhajir game. On two occasions, once after the PPP-MQM Karachi accord and when Altaf Hussain ended his hunger strike, the federal government lost the opportunity to reach accommodation and defuse the tension.

Unquestionably, force will be required to control the criminal elements who have flourished on both sides of the ethnic divide. Clearly, one-sided arrests and imprisonment of political opponents, the MQM "terrorists", who are elected representatives of millions of Muhajirs of Sindh, will only exacerbate the Sindh crisis.

The army is now required for this task. But what is needed most urgently is a political resolution of the conflict in Sindh. This requires an immediate opening of serious negotiation between the PPP and MQM leadership.

Against the backdrop of a PPP-MQM dialogue, the controversy between the army and the federal government on Articles 147 and 245 would become irrelevant. To ensure a bipartisan approach to the question of law and order, Benazir and MQM leadership must agree on a formula whereby criminals on both sides should be brought to book. Special civilian tribunals with retired judges cold be agreed upon mutually. The setting up of such tribunals should ensure impartial and speedy justice and satisfy the army that it will not be implicated in partisan police-work.

Uncharacteristically, the army is accepting orders from a civilian government it does not necessarily agree with. For now it does not have a choice. Its 1983 performance has left it thoroughly discredited among Sindhis. The anti-army sentiment has been effectively exploited by the Sindhi politicians. Army understands that the Sindh crisis needs a political solution. For now they appear to believe that PPP alone can help resolve the Sindh problem. The common perception of Sindhis today is that military is partisan in favour of the Muhajirs.

Benazir's insistence on continuing with her Sindh policy may tempt the army to provide subtle support to a new coalition which could undermine Benazir's Sindhi standing. Such an effort can only fuel inter-Sindhi rivalry. Feudals of Sindh may emerge as the significant players. But Sindh will still not be at peace with itself. Scheming may displace PPP but it will also discredit the army and yet not solve the problem.

The federal government's continued mishandling of the Sindh problem will create fertile ground for sectarian, enthic and uniformed men's politics. It will throw the Pakistani society into greater convulsions. And Benazir will have significantly contributed to an increasingly traumatised and strife-ridden Pakistani society.

Sri Lanka

Ministry Reports 'Nearly 184,000' Refugees

BK2406114190 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Nearly 184,000 people have been made refugees by the war situation prevailing in the north and the east, according to the data issued by the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, and Social Welfare. Sixty-seven camps have been set up to accommodate the refugees, most of whom are from the Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Amparai, and Mannar Districts. Seven hundred and fifty refugees have also reached Colombo. The ministry states that it is difficult to obtain correct figures for Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, and Jaffna regions.

There is a noted need for dry rations, clothing, drugs, tents and pillows, and mats for the refugees. Minister M.S. Adikari has appealed for generous help in kind from the public to ease the plight of those rendered homeless.

Tamil Youths Detained; LTTF Said in Retreat

BK2706090890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, hundreds of Tamil youths have been detained in the capital, Colombo, by the security forces in a bid to capture militants who have reportedly infiltrated the city. Meanwhile, military officials have called on the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants trapped in an eastern jungle to surrender or face an intensive air attack. These militants reportedly number about 2,500. The Sri Lankan army commander, General Hamilton Ranasinghe, has claimed that the LTTE militants are on the retreat on all fronts.

LTTE Claims Troops Hack 44 Tamils To Death

BK2706111290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1058 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 27 (AFP)—Security forces have hacked to death 44 Tamil civilians and dumped the bodies in a river in eastern Sri Lanka, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) charged Wednesday [27 June].

A brief LTTE statement received here from London said the massacre took place in Batticaloa District on Sunday and that the bodies were discovered by the rebels Tuesday.

No further details were available.

There was no independent confirmation of the report from Batticaloa, a Tamil-majority district where government troops took the main town Monday [25 June] after their advance was halted by mines and booby traps.

Military officials here and residents reported Tuesday [26 June] that government troops had killed dozens of young suspected LTTE members and their bodies were lying strewn in the eastern town of Kalmunai. The LTTE, the most powerful Tamil guerrilla group in Sri Lanka, renewed a bush war with security in the island's northeast June 11 after nearly 14 months of peace talks with Colombo.

Nearly 1,100 people have died in the fighting so far.